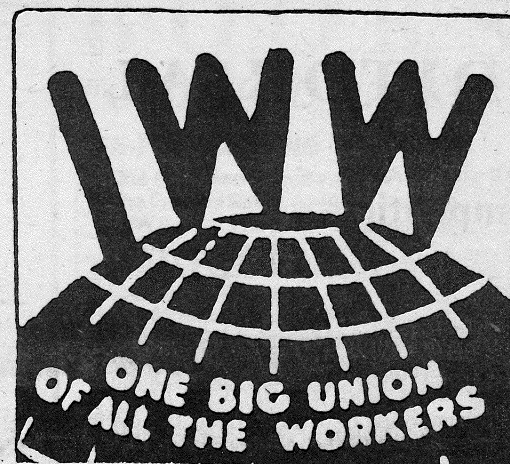


★ EDUCATION ★ ORGANIZATION ★ EMANCIPATION

INDUSTRIAL WORKER

Industrial Workers of the World



VOLUME 85, NUMBER 10, WH 1504

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS OCTOBER 1988

50 CENTS

Dissident Unionist Waits Eleven Years for Settlement

NLRB: "A NATIONAL DISGRACE"



John Kuebler is one of the most prominent and active fighters for union democracy in the New York-based Teamster Local 282. Having been forced to wait 11 years for a back-pay settlement, Kuebler does not now expect to ever receive it. He calls the NLRB a "national disgrace."

The back pay claims of two former dissident unionists who lost their jobs as a result of the fraudulent actions of Teamster Local 282 officials in 1977 was upheld recently in a ruling by the National Labor Relations Board.

Eleven years after the firing of union chauffeurs John Kuebler and Charles Curd the board approved damages in the amount of \$62,206 for Kuebler and \$58,805 for Curd. Both men were members of a local dissident group, FORE (Fear of Reprisal Ends).

In addition to the damages, the local was ordered to make annuity and pension fund contributions of approximately \$25,000. Kuebler's case was brought to the attention of the U.S. Congress on August 4 by the Association for Union Democracy, Inc. (AUD), a New York-based organization which works to improve democratic practices within unions.

In a letter sent to legislators who have publicly criticized the Justice Department's lawsuit seeking to remove the Teamster leadership from office on the grounds that it is under the control of organized crime, AUD Executive Director Herman Benson charged that the NLRB "has proven impotent" when it comes to protecting dissidents such as Kuebler, argu-

Inside This Issue...

Report on the 45th IWW Convention

SANE Fundraisers Form IWW Shop

Satire: "The Winning Candidate"

Book Reviews: *Rank and File*; *The Massachusetts Miracle*

and plenty more!

ing further that those who oppose the Justice Department's lawsuit "have a moral and political responsibility to go beyond expressing an opinion and to take action that will help to combat racketeering in unions effectively and properly."

Kuebler, 65, who was forced to retire because of illness in March 1986 (he has prostate cancer) says he does not expect to receive the back pay from the local despite the board's decision in his favor. He said he would not be surprised if the union files another appeal, thus delaying payment for months, possibly years.

The lesson to be learned from this case, says Kuebler, is that "if you stand up and fight, you lose because the union uses the law against you." Kuebler lost his job in October 1977 after a Local 282 shop steward forged his attendance records, and he was out of work for more than a year as a result of being blackballed by the union. In addition to losing income while unemployed, he was forced to accept a job at substantially less pay than he would have earned had he been able to retain his seniority. In order to work, he was required

Turn to page 8

Co-op Network Established

Print Co-ops Hold Conference

by Pat Gleason

On July 29th almost 60 representatives of 17 print shops throughout the country met together at the "First-Ever Progressive Printers Conference" in Cleveland, Ohio. The printers came together to share information in three different areas--political involvement, business management, and of course, printing. Despite differences in history, structure and equipment, there was remarkable unity of purpose and vision among the shops.

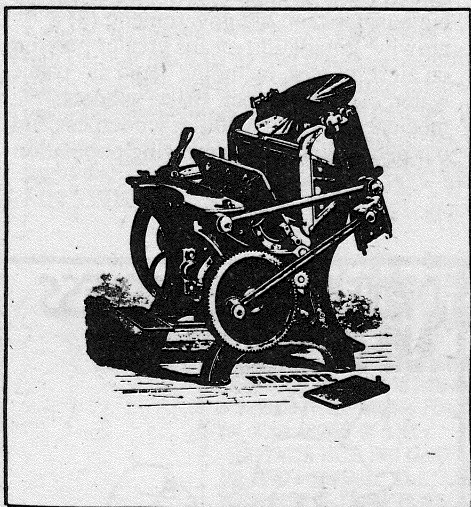
The largest shop will gross \$1 million in 1988, while the smallest is still working toward \$100,000. A number of shops have sales of half a million to three-quarters of a million each year. It was astonishing to realize that millions of printing dollars are spent with the progressive printers throughout the country.

The conference was initiated by four shops--Red Sun in Boston, Omega Press in Philadelphia, Commonwealth Printing in Hadley, Mass., and Salsedo Press in Chicago. This group was joined in the organization and planning of the conference by Orange Blossom Press in Cleveland. Print shops from Vancouver, British Columbia, to Charleston, SC were in attendance, among them the IWW's Lakeside Press of Madison, Wisconsin.

Everyone was anxious to talk with their counterparts in other shops, so meetings were held for press operators, financial managers, customer service reps, etc. People shared the way they worked and the research they'd done on equipment purchases, computers, job planning, estimating, and marketing. These sessions were tremendously useful and will help avoid "re-inventing the wheel," because each shop can profit by the work other shops have already done.

The agenda for the weekend was very ambitious. Four major workshops were held: Marketing, management, finances and accounting, and political action. There were also eight smaller workshops, covering union issues,

computerization, employee benefits, co-op structure, health and safety issues, capitalization, desktop publishing and affirmative action. People were very impressed with the



sophisticated level of development that the shops show in all these areas, although there is still plenty of room for improvement, expansion and growth.

Many shops find themselves confronting common problems. Undercapitalization plagues many of us, leading to continued use of old equipment and consequent non-competitive pricing. Also, lack of access to traditional sources for loans for cash-flow or equipment investment is a repeated complaint. We were heartened to find, however, that a number of shops had solved these problems by converting to co-ops, giving them access to non-traditional investment monies, like alternative loan funds or religious investment groups. With better accounting procedures and increased profitability, some shops were able to get loans from their local banks or credit unions.

Another difficult area is affirmative action. Although the majority of the conference participants were women, many noted that the atmosphere in some of our shops was still dominated by the white male homophobic culture characteristic of the printing industry for centuries.

Conference participants also expressed great concern over the low representation of blacks and other people of color in some of our shops. Everyone agreed that, despite the dismal percentage of people of color in the trade (one participant said that only 2% of the entire printing industry was black), we need to make more aggressive efforts to overcome this problem. The need for ongoing training programs was emphasized, and we shared ideas about advertising job openings in places more likely to reach people of color.

Chicago was the only city represented by more than one progressive print shop. Both Justice Graphics and Salsedo Press were there, and discussed the cooperation that exists

among the progressive print shops in that area. Common Wealth also talked about the cooperative arrangement that they have with Collective Copies in Hadley, although they don't do exactly the same kind of work. It was encouraging to the other shops to see that the same cooperative spirit that exists among all of us nationally could develop at a local level between "competitors."

At the plenary, a motion was approved to become a "Federation of Progressive Printers" and begin a newsletter to stay in touch with each other. Also, we adopted the Nicaraguan Printers Project, to help Nicaragua's *Barricada* in the area of desktop publishing. And already, plans are afoot to have the finance managers meet again for a weekend conference on the financial aspects of our shops.

Perhaps the best summary of the conference was made by Carla McCarty, newest member of the Salsedo Press collective and, at 17, representative of the next generation of progressive printers, when she said, "I learned so much in one weekend--about the printing business, finances, and the movement as a whole. It was great!"

INDUSTRIAL WORKER
3435 N. Sheffield Avenue
Suite 202
Chicago, Illinois, 60657

ISSN: 0019-8870

Second Class Postage
Paid at
Chicago, Illinois, 60657

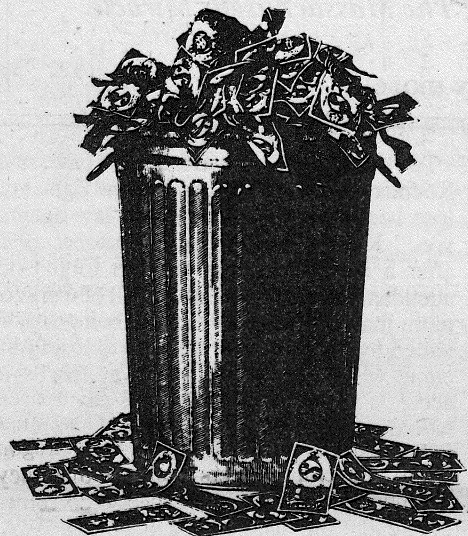
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

EDITORIAL

Competition-- Are We Addicted?

Capitalism has one driving ethic--profit. To that end the capitalists will soon poison your air, your water, and your food, as the last several issues of *IW* have pointed out. But even more destructive to the American left, they pollute our minds with self-doubt and competitiveness.

For competition to be an effective tool for controlling public behavior, it must be accompanied by insecurity. Secure people feel no compulsion for competition. Our training begins early. It has been my observation that by the time we reach grade school we already have a low opinion of ourselves. If we haven't, teachers will finish the job with a large dose of humiliation. Once we are stripped of our self-esteem, it becomes a simple matter for our "superiors" to manipulate our behavior by providing us with formulas for regaining our pride. By getting better grades than our peers, by beating our friends in sports, by working harder, we earn recognition. Super-achievers get the applause. By the time we leave school we are well trained to take our places in a capitalist world, both as a producer and as a consumer.



We are competitors extraordinaire and spend the rest of our lives trying to do our mates in rather than cooperating with them. I have never been able to figure out how the extremely contradictory ideas of Christianity and competitive capitalist greed can simultaneously exist in the same skull. Enuf to drive you to the funny farm!

We are all affected by this mind-poisoning. We breathe it daily, like smog. Do you get competitive on the interstate? Do you get into an identity crisis when your team loses? Do you feel humiliated if you lose an argument? Most people in a capitalist society seem to have a deep inner need to find ways to feel superior to others--whites over blacks, Baptists over atheists, intellectuals over workers, anarchists over Marxists, etc., etc.. Even when we can no longer rationally justify one of these prejudices--racism for example--we don't give up our need to feel superior. We just switch our contempt from blacks to the racists, never recognizing that it's not racism that is the root of our problem but the cancerous need to feel superior fathered by an insecure and competitive capitalist society.

Next time you go to a meeting of socialists discussing the need for cooperation and sharing, watch the blood flow as they compete intellectually. There is little thought of sharing ideas for the benefit of all. Just no-holds-barred competition. Each must win--to prove what? That we are all infected with a capitalist disease? It is healthy to debate our ideas as brothers and sisters when the goal is to fine-tune our thinking and our principles. It is unhealthy when that debate is just another game to prove our intellectual superiority.

It is no crime to be infected with the need to compete. We are bombarded with this poison from the time we are born. The danger lies in not recognizing that we are contaminated and doing what we can to regurgitate it from our system.

With a little less capitalist competition and a little more socialist cooperation, I think we could build a movement that could challenge this degenerate system. We need to clean up our air and water; but we also need to clean competitiveness from our programmed behavior. Many of us seem to be competition junkies.

Just a thought.

- X325428

Correspondence

Fellow Workers,

I must object to Lobo X99's use of the word "anarchistic" in describing Earth First! (September *IW*). The author equates the word, as do most people to the delight of the ruling elite, with "disorganization". To most *IW* readers I assume it does not. Anarchism to me means a way of organizing society that is non-hierarchical. Organization and anarchy are not contradictory terms.

Perhaps this disorganization is why Earth First! has such a problem answering critics, some of whom are neither Reaganites nor left sectarians. Disorganization, as I have learned through experience, neither defends the group against scurrilous attack nor promotes self-criticism and maturing growth.

In all so-called disorganized, non-hierarchical groups there is always in fact, a hierarchy. In Earth First! an "inner circle", including Dave Forman, act as unofficial spokespeople and policymakers for the group. They are accountable to no one and probably don't reflect many of the attitudes of the rank and file.

I have a friend who became part of the "inner circle" in the early 1980s. The structure of the group greatly bothered him. But, for him, the straw that broke the camel's back was the view promoted by many in the elite clique that nuclear war would be good for the earth for it would rid the planet of human beings. My friend argued, but to no avail and the quit in bitter disgust.

While this view has been renounced as far as I know, it has eerie parallels to recent Earth First! elite comments about Ethiopian starvation and AIDS. These individual views would be of little consequence except that they emanate from the mouths of Earth First!'s unaccountable "leaders".

If Earth First! is to mature into a strong, non-hierarchical and truly radical organization I suggest that the rank and file wise up. Perhaps an internal democratic revolution should be organized to put the power of the group into the hands of its members.

For the red, black, and green,

Mark Anderlik
Missoula, MT

Dear Fellow Workers,

You are exonerated! Last month art work and theme (No Work) were dreadful! You have made up for it and more! This issue (September) was great with EF! and all those wonderful drawings of wildlife. Thanks. Again I can hold up my head as I pass out these papers.

Dorice McDaniels
Lawndale, CA

The Industrial Worker Sustaining Fund

Because *Industrial Worker* does not accept paid advertising, its publication is largely dependent upon the generous contributions of its readers. The following friends and fellow workers have contributed to the *Industrial Worker Sustaining Fund* between May and September 1988:

Sylvia Harrington \$25.00
David Payton \$10.00
X18 \$30.00
New York IWW \$66.00
Richard Foland \$4.00
John Weston \$2.50
Hugo Luoma \$6.00
Lee Baxandall \$2.50
David Waag \$6.00
Gibert Mers \$57.00
Richard Drinnon \$2.50
George LaForest \$10.00
Joseph Jablonski \$100.00
Louise Bowman \$100.00
Laughing Horse Books \$15.00
Pat McMillen \$21.00
Gary Cox \$11.00
Robert Nordlander \$2.50
Penny Pixler \$80.00
Bob Young \$50.00

Steve & Kris Lang \$10.00
Lowell May \$5.00
Toivo Halonen \$30.00
David Long \$50.00
Jeff Ferrell \$10.00
San Francisco IWW \$104.00
Denis Leigh \$10.00
Carl Aniel \$7.00
Kathleen Taylor \$12.50
Janice Herritz \$12.50
Ed Jahn \$50.00
Virgil Vogel \$2.00
John Hanson \$10.00
Penelope Rosemont \$15.00
Phyllis Calese \$30.00
Edmund Fursa \$9.00
B. Robinson \$20.00
Nola Miller \$100.00
William Malcolm \$10.00
Richard Myers \$5.00

Special thanks to the following for their recent *IWW* donations: Boston General Membership Branch (\$300.00); San Francisco General Membership Branch (\$500.00); and X18 (\$1000.00 to the sustaining fund).

Dear Editors:

I thank you for your kind words about my books in your September 1988 issue. As a life-long admirer of the *IWW* and its traditions, I am honored to be mentioned in your publication.

However--please let me clarify what your columnist "Lobo X99" calls my "peculiar views" on immigration. As I have said and written many times, in many places, I am opposed to all further mass immigration into America, legal or illegal, from any source, and my reasons for this position are quite conventional. Like all Earth First'ers, almost all environmentalists, most union members and even the majority of blacks and hispanics, I think we should seal our borders for the following good, clear, and obvious reasons: (1) the USA is overcrowded already; (2) a large influx of cheap labor--docile, uneducated and desperate foreigners--will put bona-fide naturalized and native-born American working people at further disadvantage in their struggle with big business and big government; (3) a growing population means greater pressure on all resources, including clean air, clean water, clean soil, open space, schools, medical facilities, wildlife, wilderness and our public lands; (4) a growing population

leads inevitably to more government, more laws, regulations, police, centralized control, authoritarian policies and a generalized stifling of personal freedom for all but the rich.

Yours fraternally,

Edward Abbey
Oracle, AZ

PS: Great poem by Carlos Cortez, his *Adios Tecopila!*

Editor's note: While we would not disagree that Mr. Abbey's views are indeed conventional, it is also true that they are "peculiar" from the Wobbly standpoint, and it was for Wobblies that the article in the September IW was written. Generally speaking, the IW believes that in order to create the new society within the shell of the old, we must think and act locally according to the dictates of the type of world we envision for the future. We feel the answer is not to seal the borders, but to unionize all workers the world over for the good of all. Under capitalism, no lasting gains for workers or for the health of the planet is attainable.

INDUSTRIAL WORKER



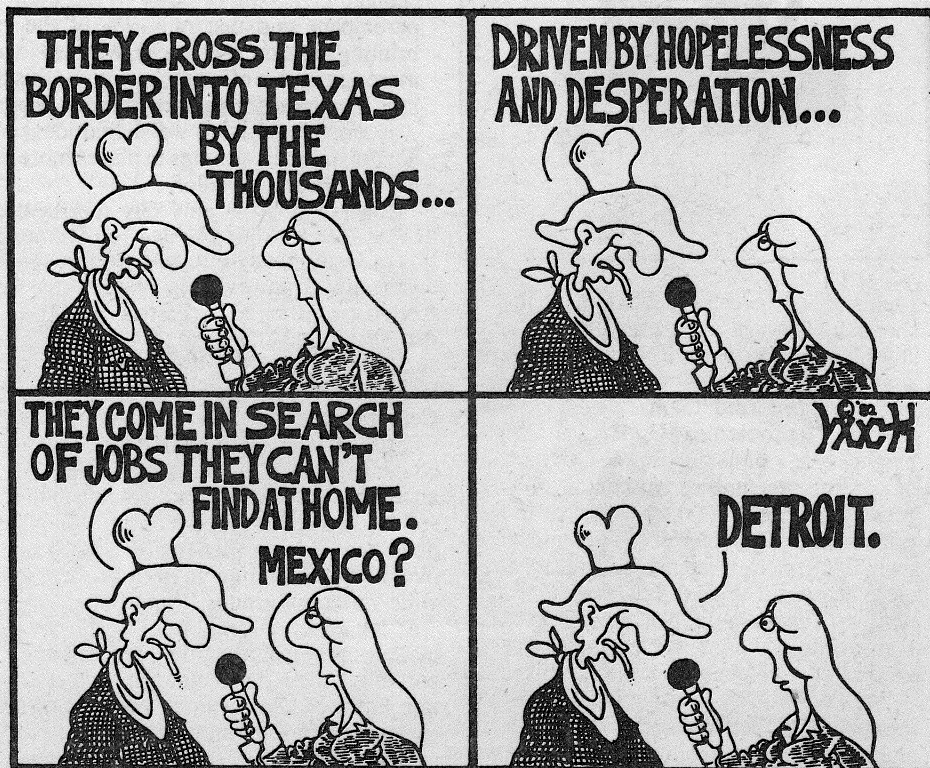
Editors:

Carlos Cortez, Fred Lee Brian Myers,
Joan Myers, Penny Pixler, Dave Wells,
Joel Williams

General Secretary-Treasurer:

Paul Poulos

The *Industrial Worker* (ISSN 0019-8870) is the official organ of the Industrial Workers of the World, 3435 N. Sheffield Avenue, Suite 202, Chicago, Illinois 60657. Phone (312) 549-5045. Second Class Postage Paid at Chicago. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: *Industrial Worker*, 3435 N. Sheffield, Suite 202, Chicago, Illinois 60657. Unless designated as official policy, articles in the *Industrial Worker* do not represent the official position of the Industrial Workers of the World. No paid or commercial advertising accepted. *Industrial Worker* is published monthly and is mailed without a wrapper to reduce expenses, but a wrapper may be requested. "If a man has a dollar he didn't work for, some other man worked for a dollar he didn't get." (Bill Haywood). The deadline for all copy is the 15th of every month. Subscription rates: \$6 per year; \$11 for two years; \$16 for three years.



World Labor News Update

NEW YORK RAIL STRIKE AGAINST OVERTIME

780 NYC track workers pulled a no warning strike against the Metro-North Commuter Railroad. The walkout was prompted by the company's suspension of 37 employees who refused to work overtime. The teamsters' local pointed out that forcing tired workers to stay on the job could be dangerous. Other unions quickly honored the Teamsters' picket lines, shutting down the rail line and preventing some 95,000 commuters from getting to work. A Federal District judge ordered the Teamsters back to work a few hours after the strike started, and they complied, saying they had made their point. The company, contending the strike was illegal, sought \$1 million in damages and threatened to take disciplinary action against the strikers.

GOVERNMENT HALTS RAIL STRIKE

In Chicago, 2600 members of the United Transportation union strike against the Chicago & North Western Railway in early September when the lines's parent company began posting notices eliminating the jobs of 1,150 brakemen. The company contended the jobs were obsolete, but the union argued that eliminating the workers' jobs would compromise rail safety.

The strike began after the heaviest part of the morning rush hours, affecting Chicago commuter service and interstate freight service. Under the Railway Labor Act that allows government intervention in rail strikes said to threaten national commerce, a mandated compromise settlement that would cut 689 brake jobs was rushed through Congress that afternoon and was signed by the President into law that evening.

BRITISH POSTAL WORKERS STRIKE

British postal workers walked out August 31 on a one day strike to protest incentive cash payments to workers in London and southeastern England. The Communications Workers Union insisted the bonus paid to all new workers or none at all, but agreed to differential cost-of-living payments regionally. Several days later postal employees walked out and stayed out for more than a week when management tried to hire temporary workers to cope with the backlogged letters and packages.

GREEK SHIPYARD WORKERS PROTEST LAX SAFETY

Shipyards workers in the Greek port city of Perama staged a 24-hour strike after four maintenance workers were killed and 17 injured in an explosion onboard a ship being serviced. The strikers held inadequate safety measures responsible for the explosion.

Pat McMillen Featured In Duluth News Tribune

"On Pat McMillen's right forearm, an eagle clutching a freedom banner in its beak soars over a castle and a rose. On his left forearm, still meaty after 93 years, an elaborate 6-inch cross honors his mother. But the masterpiece tattoo from McMillen's 50 years at sea is stamped on his chest: a rib-cage wide globe topped with the letters IWW..."

So began an article in the Labor Day edition of The Duluth News-Tribune featuring an interview with 93 year old veteran Wobbly Pat McMillen, who was pictured on the front page, arms folded, casting a defiant glare into the photographer's camera.

"Conditions force me to believe deep in my heart," said Fellow Worker McMillen during the interview, "if I live to be 130 or 230 years old, I'll still believe in the principles of the Wobblies. When they say the working class and the employing class have nothing in common--goddamn it, that is as good as the day it was wrote, and it will be as good as the day it was wrote 200 years from now..."

INDIAN JOURNALISTS STRIKE AGAINST CURBS

The only news organizations operating in India on September 16 were the government-run radio and TV. Otherwise the news cutoff was total as thousands of journalists held a one-day strike against proposed legislation that would expand the concept of defamation and increase penalties for offenders. In the face of the newspaper workers' resistance, the government backed down, at least temporarily.

ANTI-UNION REPRESSION CONTINUES

More than 350 unionists were murdered and 7500 arrested around the world last year for engaging in normal union activities, according to the the most recent figures compiled by the International Confederation of Trade Unions. The most brutal repression is faced by Latin American unionists, with Brazil and Columbia accounting for more than 300 of the deaths. Unionists and union officials were also killed in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Paraguay during 1987.

In South Africa, employers and police murdered 17 unionists during strikes. More than 300 Polish unionists were arrested during strikes earlier this year, while 2,000 Romanian workers were arrested following massive protests against the government's economic policies last November.

Malaysian authorities recently released V. David, General Secretary of the Malaysian Trades Union Congress, after 8 months of detention. International union pressure has also resulted in the release of arrested Fijian, Tunisian, Zambian and Soviet union activists. Several South Korean workers (out of 900 arrested) are still imprisoned following last year's strike wave, and police attacked Turkish workers during May Day celebrations this year.

The same ICFTU survey also points to abuses of union rights in Canada, Chile, England, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Nepal, Pakistan and the United States. ICFTU General Secretary John Vanderveken describes the report as "a tribute to the courage and bravery of trade unionists all around the world..." The report, like its predecessors, makes it quite clear that employers and governments everywhere, regardless of their ideological pretensions, will not hesitate to use force to suppress workers' struggles wherever our organizations are weak enough to permit them to get away with it.

JB

QUICKIE SWEDISH ARTS STRIKE

Cultural life in Sweden came to a three minute halt at 8:15 pm September 2, when musicians, movie-reel operators, dancers and librarians stopped work in protest of the inadequate level of government support to the arts. Actors froze in the middle of "Long Day's Journey into Night" at the National Dramatic theater and two radio stations went dead; another played Simon and Garfunkel's *Sounds of Silence*.



Members of Portland, Oregon's SANE (IU 670). Lower right: Billy Don Robinson of Portland's Laughing Horse Book Collective.

Portland, Oregon

SANE Fundraisers Organize IWW Shop

Working conditions at Oregon SANE have become unbearable. Suggestions aimed at improvements have been ignored. For example, more than six months ago, workers made a proposal during a staff meeting. The proposal was designed to democratize the workplace. It contained a plan for alleviating some of the financial burden confronting the workplace. This "radical" suggestion simply noted that managerial staff canvass one day per week, either asking for contributions by phone or by going door to door. The proposal also dealt with attempting to break down some of the perceived barriers between office staff and canvass staff. Non-managerial workers thought it would be helpful if management came into direct contact with the membership of Oregon SANE. In this way, management would be better able to understand how to make the organization more efficient.

This proposal was particularly important because management is paid by the money gathered by the canvassers. In a social justice organization trying to prevent nuclear destruction, it only makes sense that all people involved in the day to day operation be familiar with the working environment. It also makes sense that everyone pull their share of the load so that the vitally necessary work performed by SANE continues. Unfortunately, management blocked the proposal at every step, while claiming to be considering it. When, finally, the canvassers insisted upon reform, management began harassing the workers.

Working conditions at SANE steadily deteriorated. One worker who strongly advocated adoption of the proposal was fired without benefit of process. An old management practice was used to justify the firing. Management said this employee was a "troublemaker" who did not represent the organization in a manner consistent with the mission of Oregon SANE. Several workers realized that they could be fired next, and decided to do something about the danger they faced. An IWW delegate was contacted and asked to make suggestions about what could be done to stop the abuse they were increasingly being exposed to. As a result, over half the workers joined the IWW and pledged to make Oregon SANE an IWW shop. At this point, an NLRB election is slated for October 5, 1988. At present, the vote count clearly indicates that the union will be recognized. Management has plans to hire more staff in hopes of shifting the percentage, but thus far, our fellow workers have the votes to win the election.

The situation with Oregon SANE is very similar to the struggles of the Greenpeace workers you have been reading about in the Industrial Worker. In fact, two fellow workers from Oregon SANE went from Portland to Seattle to speak at meetings held by Greenpeace workers there. One fellow worker from Oregon SANE announced that he had been fired from Greenpeace in New York over a dress code violation (SANE has decided to

Turn to page 8

Environmental Group Joins UFW in Grape Boycott

The United Farmworkers Union has been joined by Earth First! in the call for a boycott of pesticide-sprayed grapes. At a demonstration at the Safeway in Ukiah on August 26th during the 6 pm evening rush, an environmental coalition led by Earth First! protested both inside and outside the branch of the huge supermarket chain. The rally follows on the heels of a month long fast by UFW President Cesar Chavez to call attention to the issue.

Earth First!er Betty Ball made the initial contact with the UFW to see if they would appreciate an Earth First! demonstration in solidarity with the grape-pickers. "They were delighted with our participation, and with the overall response they've been getting from a wide variety of groups," said Ball.

At issue is the spraying of pesticides onto table grapes, including the poisons phosdrin, parathion, methyl bromide, dinoseb, and captan. Farmworkers who are exposed to these toxics are citing alarming rates of birth defects and of cancer in both children and adults.

Said local Earth First! organizer Judi Bari, "The same companies that think nothing of

destroying the Earth with their pesticides also think nothing of poisoning the human beings who work in their fields. We support the struggle of the United Farmworkers in their fight to live and work in a healthy environment."

Bari composed a song to highlight the issue, and it was sung inside the Safeway at the produce section: "Don't eat those grapes, they ain't good for you / Made the farmworkers sick in the fields, it's true / And their killing off the birds and the wildlife too / So if you eat them who knows what they'll do..."

Earth First!er Darryl Cherney sees a trend in the Earth First! support of a labor movement issue. "This action signifies an important step in linking the environmental and labor communities. We cannot allow the corporations to form a wedge between us. What could be more pro-labor than a healthy workplace environment? You cannot poison the Earth without poisoning its human inhabitants as well."

from Country Activist



Pat McMillen: An unwavering Wobbly at 93



One of the reasons given by the jingo establishment for the disproportionate poverty of the original inhabitants of Freedomland, as well as anyone else who happens to be disproportionately poverty-stricken, is that these people lack ambition and *good ole ammuricun know-how*. That is the line they have been feeding us from grammar school on up; that all anyone needs is a little ambition combined with an enterprising nature and there is no reason why anyone can't make it in this wonderful land of opportunity.

The Oneida Indian community in Wisconsin has been no stranger to poverty; in fact, during the Great Depression one of their thoroughfares was known as Salt Pork Avenue, as that was the closest these people got to meat in those years. Back in the 70s when the Department of Indian Affairs became even less generous with their allotments, the Oneidas set up Bingo games to raise enough money to support a civic center for the reservation kids. The Bingo enterprise was so successful that it attracted players from hundreds of miles

One of the excuses for imposing outside control over Indian gaming activities is the possibility of the games being taken over by organized crime, and indeed the biggest organized crime syndicate of them all is trying to pass a law to that effect.

around and they not only supported their civic center but now have a nursing home, a day-care center, a job-training and health-care center, and support over forty-one other Oneida programs. The Oneida also operate a 200-room hotel that accomodates the several Bingo players from far-off places.

Thanks to the crowds of White Bingo addicts, what used to be a poor semi-rural area has become self-supporting with a sizable reduction of the disproportionate unemployment that plagues most Indian reservations.

The Oneidas were happily under the impression that their problems were being resolved without having to beg from the Great White Father but the Great White Father apparently has other ideas. Early last month the United States Senate was considering a bill that is causing no small amount of consternation—not only among the Oneida but among all other Indian Nations as well. This senate bill would give individual state governments jurisdiction over any Indian gaming activities, in direct violation of sovereign rights guaranteed by treaty.

Anybody who has ever come into contact with White populations adjacent to Indian land realizes immediately that they are in another Mississippi, so heavy is the racism among those locals. One of the excuses for imposing outside control over Indian gaming activities is the possibility of the games being taken over by organized crime, and indeed the biggest organized crime syndicate of them all is trying to pass a law to that effect. These government people also try to hoodwink the general populace into thinking that the Indians are incapable of handling their own affairs. Most people are unaware of the fact that the Oneida Nation, being part of the Haudenasaune Confederacy (Iroquois), has a government that is at least 500 years older than the government of the Great White Motha.

Thus, another of many similar indignities is being visited upon the original "Americans." At the close of the second World War a group of Navajo veterans pooled their GI Benefit money and bought some rolling stock so they could establish a much needed bus line through the vast Navajo reservation, but the government wouldn't give them the franchise. The same government that is allowing outfits like Peabody Coal and Kerr-McGee to lay

waste to the Navajo's landscape, kill off their livestock and spread cancer among the people.

They talk about the danger of organized crime taking over Indian-operated games while a sore spot among some West Coast Indians is the presence of syndicate-run gam-



bling-houses on reservations that were franchised by the government.

Great White Father still speak with forked tongue!

It all started with a heartily disliked sea captain from Genoa whose reputation as a sea captain was so bad—in a day when the lot of a sailor was anything but rosy—that the only way he could have a crew for his voyage was for the king of Spain to man his boats with prisoners from the Spanish jails. Columbus wrote glowing reports on how gentle the "Indios" were, and then proceeded to slaughter or enslave them. A careful reading between the lines of historical accounts will disclose that Columbus was anything but a savory character.

Nonetheless it seems that all the born-again Gringos of Italian ancestry regard him as one of their folk heroes, completely disregarding the fact that Columbus's loyalty was to the Spanish Crown and that he considered himself Spanish—and that instead of signing his name as Cristoforo Columbo he chose to sign Cristobal Colon. Capone could hardly have been a worse role model for Italo-Americans to promote to their kids. Even an ego-tripper like Sinatra would be more wholesome.

This is not only the month that celebrates the instigator of imperialism, but at the end of this month a much more wholesome holiday is being celebrated, that of Halloween. Even late into this writer's dotage he still cuts his Jack O'Lanterns. However, there is even a maligned minority in the observance of Halloween, the poor inoffensive bat.

The bat has been maligned for centuries by people who are alienated from nature. For some reason the bat has been used as a sinister symbol or a bad omen. If they are not associated as bloodsucking vampires who change shape back and forth they are used around Halloween as spooky symbols. Of course, it has occurred to your humble scribe that the myth of the vampire bats has been initiated to divert the attention of us poor saps from the real bloodsuckers.

While it has been established that there are occasional rabid bats, there is still far more rabidity among our own species. I have never heard of anyone being mugged, raped, drafted or laid off by a bat. The common neighborhood bat that the gentle reader has been conditioned to behold with shivering spine can catch 600 mosquitos within a single hour. Too bad they can't do the same for other bloodsuckers, but I reckon the little fellers consider that a problem for us to handle.

It has also been disclosed that large bat colonies eat up a quarter million pounds of insects in a single night. I remember as a child having read that if all birds were to become extinct, within a year there would be nothing left on Earth but insects. Those who poo-poo ecology should give this a sobering thought. After all, the insects have been here since before the dinosaurs, have proven their capability of surviving nuclear explosions, and promise to be around long after we homio sapiens have wiped ourselves off of the face of this Earth. Hopefully, the insects might evolve into nobler creatures than us but in the meantime we shouldn't give up trying to make this world better for ourselves.

Or to say it better, we have the responsibility to make ourselves better for the World!

C. C. Redcloud

The Columbine Massacre

Now, I've toured the country some,
Saw many a mystery--
So I sure as hell ain't that impressed
With local history.
I'm a modern, broke-down bindle-stiff
With a see-the-country itch.
I was thumbin' Colorado
And I'd caught a local hitch
So I asked about a quiet spot
Alongside the road
Where I could cool my aching kicks
And drop my heavy load.
Was told about a tiny grove
On a hilltop, all alone,
So I laid my head against my pack
And I slept just like a stone.
But I dreamed I was awakened
And an old man called my name!
And he said, "This here is sacred ground
But you're welcome all the same."
"So who are you?" I yelled, irate.
"And how do you know me?"
Then he came real close,
and he sat right down
With his back against a tree.

"Now son, I am an old, old man
With a mess of broken rhymes.
Might say my job is tellin' folk
about the olden times.
These fields of soy and beets and corn
Far as the eye can see
Are a patchwork quilt of green and gold
Where mine camps used to be.
There ain't much left, 'few rustin' cars
From the proud old Eagle mine. . .
And the tippie's gone. But once that was
The mighty Columbine!
This hilltop--well, it overlooks
A dozen rural towns
Whence miners trudged each day to toil
Beneath the coalin' grounds.
They cursed the heat and dark and damp.
hey fought the coal car mules.
They put their life-blood on the line
For Rocky Mountain Fuels.
They heaved the timbers down the hole.
They blasted through the rock.
For wages low, by carbide glow,
They worked around the clock.
Each miner knows the precious air
He takes with every breath
Can foul, ignite, explode and send

A hundred to their death.
And thus, you owe your very life
To company supplies.
But when the gear is gone, or broke,
It ain't the boss that dies."

I sat, amazed. Who was this man
Leanin' against this tree?
And why should I sit listening?
And what's he want with me?
But he just kept talkin' on
Like he thought I might care.
So I unpacked the pen and pad
I carry everywhere.

"Blast. Muck out. Timber and drill.
And then another round.
Gotta be the closest thing
To hell we've ever found.
As if it wasn't half enough
To keep the miners poor,
The bosses' scrip was only good
In the bosses' company store.
Them Wobblies called a state-wide strike
To get the eight-hour day,
An end to scrip, for union rights,
And somewhat better pay.
The state militia met the striking
Miners at the wire,
And suddenly they opened up
With live machine-gun fire.
Twas on a cold November morn'
The soldiers turned the tide.
Thirty-five were hit; four men,
and yes one woman died."

Then something happened that I'm sure
You may think somewhat weird--
As I was looking at him, this
Old man just disappeared.
He faded into nothing like
a distant memory,
And suddenly I found myself
just staring--at a tree!
'Twas just west of Twenty-five
On Colorado Seven.
Good place for remembering
Miners gone to heaven.
And next time I'm passin' through
I sure would like to see
Some kind of hilltop marker--just to
Mark the memory.

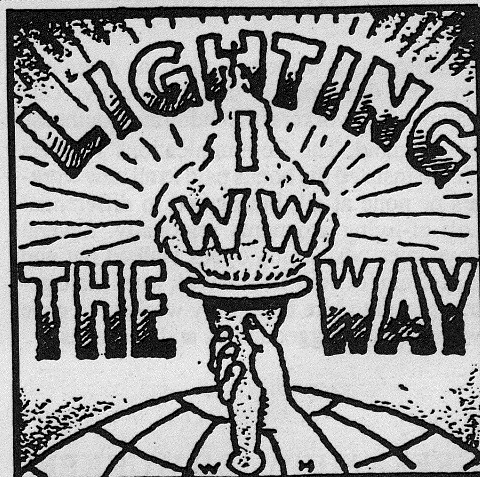
--Richard Hill

Wobs Conduct IWW Workshop at Environmental Conference

In early September Wobs Gary Cox and Billy Don Robinson were invited by the Ukiah Earth First!ers in to hold an IWW workshop at their gathering September 16-18.

Gary Cox reported that there were many interesting and informative workshops held over the weekend. They camped in old-growth Douglas Fir along with the two hundred to three hundred people who attended the gathering, most of them active Earth First!ers, while several others were curious supporters. The IWW workshop, conducted by Judi Bari, was attended by 120 of the gathering's participants.

Cox reported that there was much heated and healthy debate around the racist and misanthropic statements allegedly made by Earth First! spokesmen, and notes that it would be a serious error to attempt to file all Earth First!ers under one label. They are a very mixed group of people, the majority of whom are "angry with the senseless waste and destruction of the system we have all inherited, and are eagerly searching for alternatives." Cox and Robinson also observed that several workshop participants were very curious about the IWW vision and structure as a way to "insure control of their movement and their newspaper." They were also very appreciative of IWW history in the Northwest.



In general, Cox reported, the weekend was quite productive and several IWW membership cards were left behind. One logger remarked that he was "going back into the woods to organize his crew."

Cox concluded by suggesting that we have much to offer this young movement, and we have a great deal to learn from them. Their knowledge of ecology is invaluable to a union which is very much concerned with this issue, and their youthful energy and creativity is contagious. The report concludes with the announcement that there was some discussion of a western regional conference of Wobblies and Earth First!ers to be held in sometime in the near future.

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

Title of publication: Industrial Worker. Publication number: 263680. Date of filing: September 15, 1988. Frequency of issue: Monthly. Annual Subscription Price: \$6.00. Complete Mailing Address: 3435 N. Sheffield, Suite #202, Chicago Illinois 60657. Publisher: Industrial Workers of the World. Editor(s): Carlos Cortez, Brian Myers, Joan Myers. Managing Editor: none. Owner: Industrial Workers of the World, 3435 N. Sheffield, Suite #202, Chicago Illinois 60657. Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders: none. The purpose, function, and non-profit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes have not changed during the preceding 12 months. Extent and nature of circulation: (a) average number of copies for each issue during the preceding 12 months; (b) actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date. Total number of copies (press run): (a) 4363; (b) 4000. Paid and/or requested circulation: Sales through dealers and vendors: (a) 1895; (b) 1991. Mail subscriptions: (a) 1180; (b) 1366. Total paid and/or requested circulation: (a) 3075; (b) 3357. Free distribution by mail, carrier or other means: (a) 300; (b) 100. Total distribution: (a) 3375; (b) 3457. Copies not distributed: (a) 988; (b) 543. Returns from news agents: none. Total: (a) 4363; (b) 4000. I certify that the above statements are correct and complete. Brian W. Myers, Editor.

Mexico, Twenty Years Ago

The Plaza of Three Cultures

It has been twenty years since Tlatelolco*, since the days of August when marches of up to a million people were held day after day in Mexico City, since the Halcones (hired gang thugs) attacked students and workers, and the army fired on rallies killing hundreds to establish order before an Olympics representing Peace.

I am not sure what the original demands were any more, not sure if I knew what they were then, the repression had already begun when I arrived in Mexico. I do remember the black mourning ribbons hanging from windows everywhere, the atmosphere of excitement and fear and the people trying to organize themselves against goons, grenaderos and soldiers, that it was dangerous to be caught alone or in small groups. The talk that university autonomy had been violated, the constitution ignored, the Revolution of Villa, Zapata and Magon betrayed, and that a country that could not meet the needs of its own people was splurging millions on stadiums to show off to the world for a month.

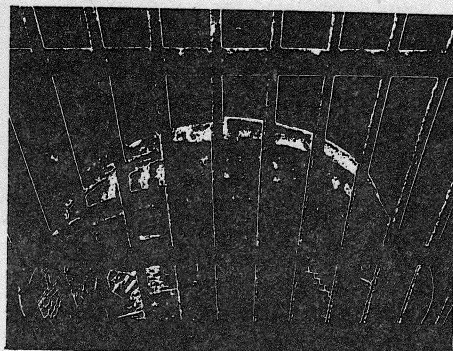
My first experience with solidarity was witnessing the students of the UNAM and

Polytechnico join in support of each other and then the groups of workers and peasants who arrived to march with the students with banners to say they were there to support the students who supported them in earlier battles. For a moment it seemed as if another revolution might be around the corner. The government of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party must have thought so also for they enacted a repression that soon had a stranglehold on the movement. The arrests began with little concern that those swept up were active in the movement. A net was tossed out to provide examples of what an angered government would do; the movement braced and continued. Those of us arrested early on may have been lucky. On the second of October 1968 at the plaza of Tlatelolco, packed with protesters while the strike coordinators spoke, the army moved in and opened fire. More than four hundred were murdered, a couple of thousand arrested. The Olympics were to go on unmo- lested.

I remember hearing the gunfire from Tlatelolco from my cell, pressing the guards for information and being transferred the next evening to the detention compound of the Military Camp #1 for my curiosity. A three day nightmare of interrogations in the middle of the night (where I was treated as if I was at Tlatelolco though I was arrested a month earlier), the threat of execution, being dragged along sidewalks under the erieness of mercury vapor lights past rows of corpses, the long hours in a white tiled, four by five foot cell under a two hundred watt bulb that burned constantly, listening to the screams and moans of the others and the shouts and curses of their military guards.

Eventually three hundred of us were taken to

Lecumberri prison where we remained for three years. Where I learned what unity and solidarity could mean thru joint action by people of diverse groups working together even in the most controlled and repressive situations by their refusal to be dominated. Through protests, petitions, hunger strikes,



The people of Lecumberri never gave up. Many of them found ways to continue organizing from their prison cells, to maintain contact with their people and keep sight of their goals.

lock ins, lock outs, prison riots, deportations of Mexican nationals to South America, phony trials on unproven charges and sixteen year sentences, we after three years won back our freedom. The people in Lecumberri never

gave up. Many of them found ways to continue organizing from their prison cells, to maintain contact with their people and keep sight of their goals.

Though not part of the movement on the outside, I was scooped up in the net while being in Mexico to avoid Vietnam--but I was educated thru the example of the others, wanting to return the solidarity they so freely extended to me. The protests and risks they ran to get me transferred to their dormitory after a year and a half of being isolated in solitary confinement (not to mention the occasional book, bit of food and messages of encouragement they had smuggled to me earlier).

Today, twenty years after the October second massacre at Tlatelolco, it is hard to put a face on those who died fighting for a better life. The bodies of those hundreds were carried away by the army and disposed of; no one knows the names of those who fell. But I remember one name, a friend and fellow worker in prison, he went through beatings and hunger strikes and riots, was always one of the first to come to someones aid, yet never lost the ability to smile, joke and continue to organize. Late one night in 1971, Pablo Alvarado Barrera was taken from his cell. The next day it was announced that he was shot trying to escape; that was the only way they could stop him.

Fellow Workers, Mexico is a country in some part of which there is always constant struggle, the repression is swift and little news gets out. This October marks the twentieth anniversary of Tlatelolco, let us remember it with the name of Pablo, he lives on in the spirit of thousands of Mexican fellow workers who fight today and need our Solidarity.

X334180

* Tlatelolco is also known as the Plaza of Three Cultures, representing Aztec, Conquistador and Meztizo. On October 2, 1988, 100,000 Mexican students and workers marched to the plaza to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the massacre, and speakers recited a list of the known dead. Militancy is strong on issues of the Mexican austerity program imposed to cope with foreign debt, the implication of PRI in recent vote fraud to continue its hold on national power and a staggering forty percent unemployment rate; the movement continues!

The Winning Candidate

*As the police removed the bloody
axe from his hands,
Senator Smuff smiled into the TV
cameras and declared himself
a candidate for President.*

by Franklin Rosemont

A few minutes after brutally murdering his parents, wife, teenage daughter and infant son, United States Senator Mockery T. Smuff resolved not to stand for re-election. Instead, he sat down in the most comfortable chair in his office and prayed that the photographers would hurry. Surveying with satisfaction one of his few tangible achievements as a public servant, he decided that his lucky break had come at last. As the police removed the axe from his bloody hands, Sen. Smuff smiled into the TV cameras and declared himself a candidate for President.

This was regarded as a bold move at the time, and there were many--especially at first--who seriously doubted his chances. But even the most skeptical had to admit that the Senator used his arrest and trial as effective vehicles of publicity. He began by garnering public sympathy, stressing the tragic aspects of his personal life, as an orphan and now a widower mourning his ill-fated family. At the same time he took the opportunity to advertise his many qualifications for high office: He was an assiduous church-goer, an ostentatious contributor to charity, and above all, an excellent jogger.

Smuff won considerable support by candidly boasting of his guilt. "I cannot tell a lie," he lied, and all over the country gossip-columnists and TV newscasters quickly discovered that by remarkable coincidence, the very same words were supposed to have been said long ago by none other than George Washington, regarded by many as "Father of Our Country" (whatever that might mean). Seasoned campaign-watchers marveled at Smuff's ability to enlist the American heritage in his behalf. He would quote Nathan Hale--"I regret that I have but one life to give for my country"--and then go on to say that he, Candidate Smuff, had patriotically given FIVE lives; if elected, he added, he would be only too happy to give many more. Smuff bragged, too, that if it had not been for the invaluable aid of murderers like himself, old Abe Lincoln never would have gotten his fine reputation as martyr.

In his televised debates and personal appearances, the Senator was careful not to be seen



Nothing abnormal about this baby...

without his axe. Indeed, the bloody weapon--which he affectionately called Exhibit A--became the popular symbol of his campaign. In all his speeches Smuff swung the axe around freely, to emphasize his AGGRESSIVE policy. In the course of these demonstrations he seriously injured several other contenders for office as well as a few bystanders. But party leaders were quick to recognize that such theatrics had broad appeal. The more blood Sen. Smuff had on his hands, the better he did in the opinion polls. When he vowed to "hack away" at the nation's problems audiences found him witty. His emphasis on fighting crime--he would "chop the crime rate in half," he said--brought roars of applause. And when he promised to reduce the number of unemployed even if he had to personally kill every out-of-work man, woman and child, voters could hardly contain their urge to mark their x's next to his name.

The Senator's attorneys adroitly maneuvered to postpone the trial until a critical moment during the nominating convention. His acquittal was thus made to appear as a virtual endorsement by the judge and jury who, in fact, did endorse him a couple of hours later, at a dinner-dance in Smuff's honor arranged by the prosecuting attorney and two prominent Supreme Court justices. Impressed by such support, the competing candidates of his own party withdrew from the race and threw their weight behind Smuff. He won unanimously on the first ballot.

The actual election campaign was anticlimactic. The other party simply had no presidential timber of Smuff's quality. In despair they finally settled on a dark-horse candidate--a former alderman whose political experience consisted of little more than a conviction for child-molesting, a fine for insurance fraud and a ticket for jaywalking. His was a lackluster campaign: everyone knew from that start that Smuff was a shoe-in.

And sure enough, when the returns were in, Smuff had won by a landslide. The Press and TV proclaimed it a landmark victory for our democratic institutions. Voters had turned out in unprecedented numbers. They had weighed the issues and made their choice. The American Way of Life had triumphed again. The people had elected their own murderer.

IWW's 45th General Convention

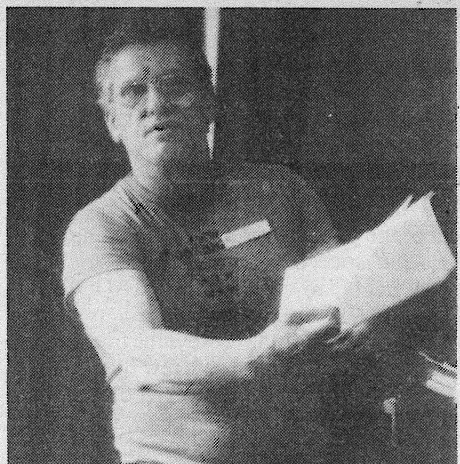


Convention Chair Carlos Cortez calls the floor to order. Photo by Dave Zatz

The skies were clear and the climate warm and inviting as Wobblies from both coasts and all points north and south traveled by bus, plane, train and auto to take part in the IWW's 45th General Convention held Labor Day weekend at Chicago's Roosevelt University.

Representatives from IWW membership branches, groups and job shops from Toronto, San Francisco, New York, Portland, Minneapolis, Austin (MN), Champaign (IL), Denver, Detroit, Madison and Chicago--embodying every form of employment from oil-field workers to loggers and from printshop workers to grocery clerks--participated in what turned out to be an uncommonly controversial, often heated and yet characteristically democratic gathering of diverse and unrepentant rebel unionists. The primary focus of this year's convention was the activities of the IWW itself, and the IWW's potential for broader grassroots shop-floor organizing. While not forgetting our basic solidarity with workers' struggles abroad--an upcoming SAC conference was endorsed, a petition was circulated for Polish workers and money was collected for the Bolivian miners--there was this year a perception held common that with increased branch activity and a determined effort to make the best use of our resources, the IWW's continued growth and wider influence shall be nothing less than spectacular.

Reporting on the activities of the San Francisco Branch, Louis Prisco announced that



General Secretary-Treasurer Paul Poulos delivers his report on Saturday morning to start off the convention. Photo by Dave Zatz

through the sales of IWW t-shirts the San Francisco Wobs were able to make a donation of \$500 to the Union (two months earlier the Branch donated \$100 which had been raised during the showing of the film "Wrath of Grapes"). Additionally, the San Francisco Wobs have carried the IWW banner in several labor and protest parades this year, and continue to sell copies of *Industrial Worker* through area bookstores. Gary Cox reported that the Denver-Boulder Branch remain as energetic, active and good-looking as ever, and outlined the Branch's plans to erect a monument to honor the victims of the 1927 Columbine mine massacre. Cox noted that people around the Denver area seem demonstrably receptive toward the solutions the



Gary Cox reviews the activities of the new Denver-Boulder IWW Branch and outlines their plans for the construction of the Columbine Miners' monument.

IWW has to offer and looks forward to continued growth and vitality for the Branch in the months ahead.

Allan Anger announced that the Tacoma-Olympia Wobs recently organized a small and personal memorial service at the gravesite of Wob martyr Wesley Everett and that they intend to repeat this ceremony each year, broadening the audience to include other interested groups. Allan urged everyone to continue petitioning on behalf of the Greenpeace workers and asked everyone to hit their local Greenpeace offices. Billy Don Robinson announced the formation of the IWW's new SANE shop in Portland, Oregon and outlined plans being formulated for a widespread IU 670 organizing drive in the northwestern states. He called everyone's attention to how easy it can be to organize, that with the proper degree of commitment and a positive attitude there is no limit to the potential the future holds



Allan Anger brings news of IWW organizing activity in the northwest. Photo by Dave Zatz

for the IWW. Dave Zatz reported that it has been a busy year for the New York Branch with an ongoing organizing effort at NYU, wide distribution of *Industrial Workers* at Rutgers University, and the revival of the New York Branch's newsletter *Rebel Voices*, due in October. New York's most recent activity, the IWW Northeast Annual Outing/Picnic, was attended by 27 fellow workers from five northeastern states. The Berkshire Learning Center, it was reported, won a settlement agreement in which the Union got a grievance mechanism in place until such time as the Berkshire group completes hammering out its contract.

Greg McDaniels reported that the Minneapolis-St. Paul Branch remains active with the P-9 group though there hasn't been as much interaction as in past months. The Minneapolis Wobs move 100 *IWs* each month and recently got a return from the papers in greenbacks where formerly there was only change in the *IW* jar. McDaniels reported that the Branch got a new member not too long ago through the paper and concluded that the *IW* is having a good effect up there. Minneapolis Wobs have been invited to participate in a Book Fair (one of two unions involved) and will be doing a reenactment of a Hoover City, camping outdoors and selling literature. Mark Plane discussed the organizing drive at Madison's Willy Street Grocery Co-op, reporting that the management's anti-union drive and a high turnover rate have combined to set back the drive considerably, but that whatever the fate of the Willy Street drive, it has provided the fellow workers involved with a great deal of useful organizing experience. The Madison Branch has garnished a great deal of publicity for the IWW in the area: leaflets have gone into the hands of hundreds of pedestrians and news of the Branch's activities has been reported on local TV and radio stations in recent months. The Branch is gaining experience, working with local groups and trying to start a tenants' union. Madison Wobs are also trying to put together some really effective organizing tools and are looking to fellow workers elsewhere for any ideas and materials they have to offer.

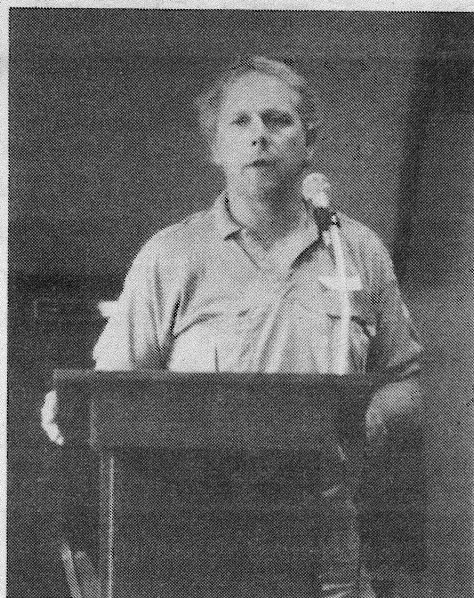
Jon Bekken of Champaign-Urbana reported that his group has had a hard time organizing; that although he used to distribute *IW* in the past he is unable to do so any longer because he is unhappy with its contents. Thousands of pieces of literature have been distributed in the area in the past 18 months and a picket in front of a Shell station attracted 30 people. The group was approached by deliverers of fast food pizza but it fell through, Bekken reported, because they wanted someone to come in and do everything for them. The group is now talking to some people at a local recycling center who are concerned about on-the-job issues. Also, the Champaign-Urbana group

has spoken with teaching assistants at the local university who are upset with a lack of raises, but FW Bekken noted that they are difficult to organize.

Mike Hargis reported that the Chicago Branch has sponsored several educational programs, e.g. a showing of the "Mon-dragon" film and a women's labor history slide-show. The Branch co-sponsored a program with the Roundtable of The Socialist Party (Chicago Chapter) on the dockworkers in Spain, and co-sponsored as well a May Day Speak Out with the Illinois Socialist Party (Chicago Chapter). They are co-sponsoring (with *Worker's Democracy* and several assorted radical labor groups) a conference on workers' self-activity in St. Louis to be held November 12-13, during which there will be a workshop on the IWW's current activities and which will include among its featured speakers IWW members Peter Rachleff and Dave Roediger.

Jeff Ditz echoed Gary Cox's remarks, that the mood among workers in this country appears to be changing. FW Ditz reported that Wobs in Detroit are pleased with the new activist orientation of the *Industrial Worker* and that members in the Detroit/Ann Arbor area seem to be deepening their commitment these days. FW Ditz reported that *11th Hour*--the publication of the Ann Arbor Tenants Union--carries an IWW bug and goes out to all *IW* listings. Ditz announced that the Greenpeace workers in Detroit are organizing and that there also appears to be a great deal of interest among members in other IWW groups and branches in forming an active tenants' union network.

Denny Mealy reported on the activities of the Austin, MN Wobs, noting that the level of activism among the P-9 FWs is the same as ever, and that they have organized a support group and put out a newsletter which keeps workers updated on events in the industry and in the plants. Immediately after P-9 was put under trusteeship the rank and file voted on activating a lawsuit against the UFCW. Re-



Denny Mealy brings news from Austin, where P-9 workers remain strong and active.

cently a law firm has volunteered to proceed with the suit (FW Mealy brought along fundraising cards to distribute at the convention; these may now be obtained through IWW headquarters). Mealy reported on the visit that

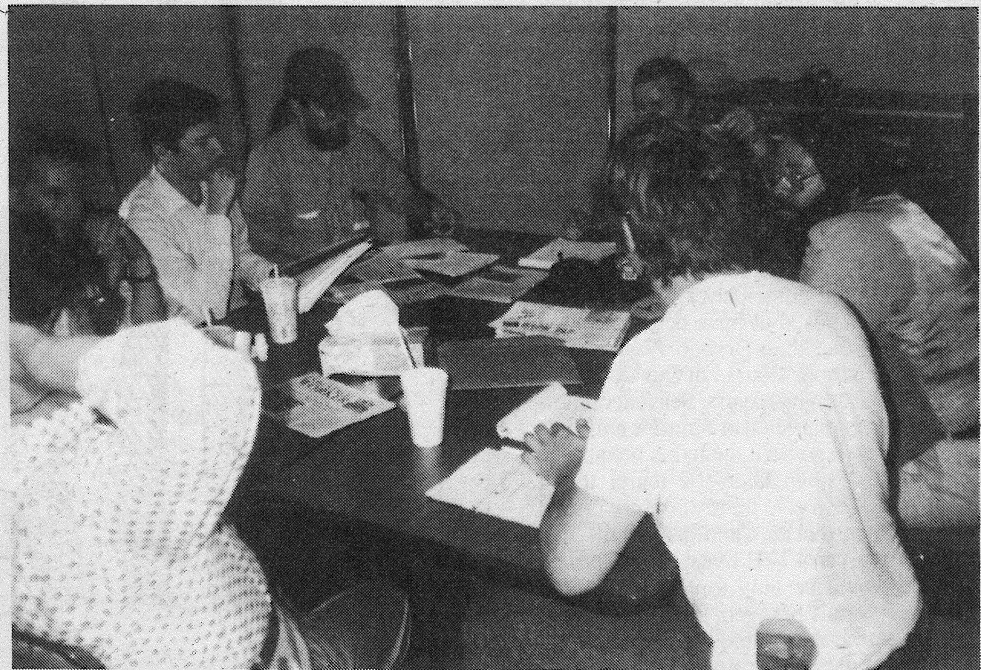
he and Gary Cox made paid to the gold-mining region near Silver Spring, Nevada and announced that there is now an IWW delegate in Silver Spring.

Joe Chang reported that the Toronto Branch has now been in existence for seven months and with membership now approaching 50, the IWW is well represented in the Canadian province of Ontario. In addition to their active presence at the recent Anarchist Gathering, Toronto Wobs have been expressing solidarity with workers on picket lines and have attracted the attention of Clayton Ruby, a well known criminal lawyer who has offered his services free of charge to the Branch. The Toronto Wobs have been especially active in the struggles of native peoples in the clear-cutting areas and they remain closely connected with the native peoples movement, including participation in the movement to free Leonard Peltier. FW Chang pointed out that technology and industry came in and wiped out most of the land, and that we must get in there and organize the industries which are only out for profit. The Branch is working on building its internal structure and is publishing an internal newsletter. Most members of the Branch are young as far as work experience goes, acknowledged FW Chang, and they are looking for people with solid experience and good information on labor organizing, adding modestly that he hopes the union will be patient with them.

Financial and procedural matters dominated discussion on the convention floor. No less than 26 financial resolutions were presented by GEB Chair Fred Lee under the auspices of the Chicago Branch, resulting in the transfer of the IWW's Nelson Bequest funds to South Shore Bank in Chicago, and the release of \$5600 to IWW headquarters for the purpose of supplementing Union income and financing Union activities for the remainder of the year. In addition, \$1000 was allocated to support the construction of the Denver-Boulder Branch's Columbine Memorial monument.

Resolutions sponsored by the Champaign-Urbana group--which called for the dismantling of the *Industrial Worker* collective and a constitutional amendment prohibiting prisoner-workers--were overwhelmingly defeated, and a resolution calling for the repeal of the Vancouver Resolution tabled. A fourth resolution, that an assessment stamp be issued to help finance the cost of sending an IWW delegate to the conference sponsored by the Swedish Workers Centralorganization (SAC), and that the IWW officially endorse this conference, was carried. A resolution brought by the Chicago Branch which would effectively change the name of the IWW "Convention" to "General Assembly" and which held that henceforth nominations for IWW officers be closed by adjournment of the General Assembly also carried.

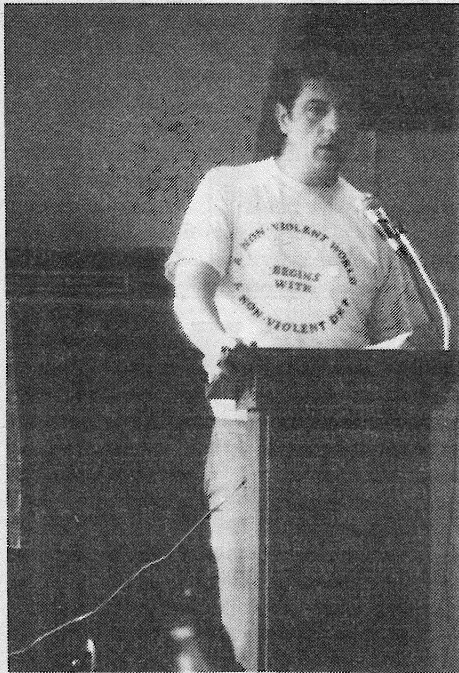
A quorum of General Executive Board members heard charges against the General Secretary-Treasurer late Saturday evening and reported Sunday that they had found the charges had merit but rejected the remedy (removal from office) suggested by the delegate from Champaign-Urbana. A heated discussion followed the GEB report which resulted in the rejection of the GEB decision by the convention body. The grievance committee reported that they had reviewed appeals brought by the delegate from Champaign-Urbana related to his previous charges, and had found the charges improper. The committee acknowledged that charges can and should be used at appropriate times, but that several



The *Industrial Worker* committee discussing ways to make the paper more useful to IWW members and to heighten circulation. Photo by Greg McDaniels

Preparing for new alliances and new growth

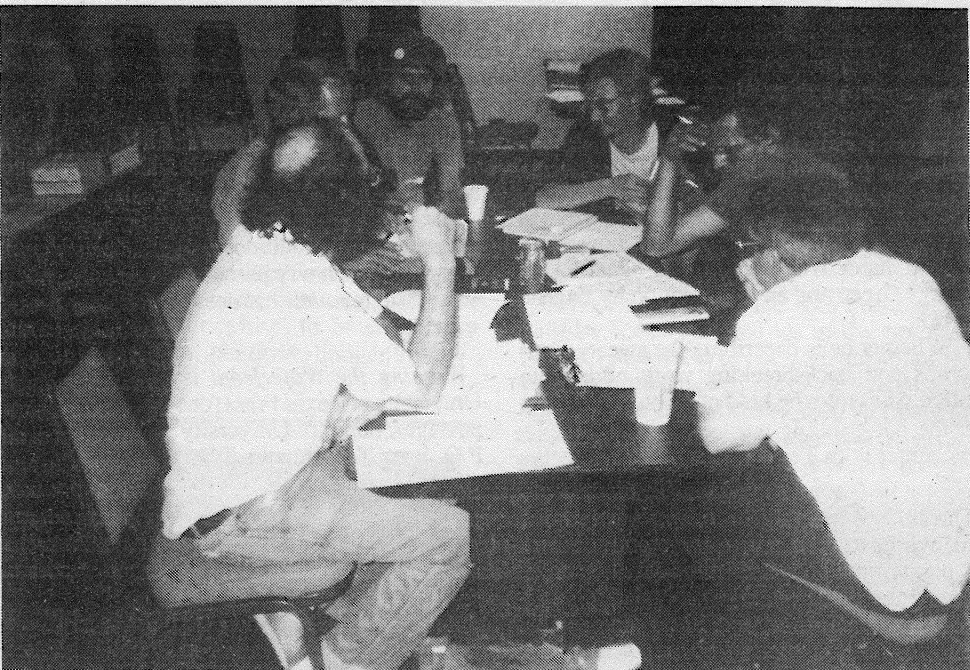
frivolous charges have been filed in recent years which could better have been resolved



Greg McDaniels gives an update on the Minneapolis-St. Paul IWW Branch activities.

Photo by Dave Zatz

by friendly communications between fellow workers; that of all unions, the IWW especially should operate in a spirit of solidarity and fellowship. After heated discussion, the grievance committee's report was accepted. Much of the most valuable discussion at this year's convention actually took place outside the established agenda, as participants met informally over lunch and during break periods between official sessions. Even as the convention wore on, Wobs and Earth First!ers from Portland, Madison, Tacoma and Ann Arbor discussed the potential for broadening the IWW's involvement in the area of environmental direct action, tenants' advocacy and the housing struggle, and plans were made for future correspondence and networking activity among IWW groups and Branches with a view toward widespread environmental and tenants' organizing drives. Further discussion centered around the great potential for an IU 670 drive, inspired by the wide interest among fundraising workers which has come as a result of the Seattle Greenpeace drive. Perhaps most significant among these informal sessions was the talk of a broadening of IWW activity in the area of environmental activism and the potential represented by the interest in the IWW expressed by outside environmental groups (as reported elsewhere in this issue of *Industrial Worker*, FWs Robinson and Cox



The financial committee discussing the IWW fiscal policy for 1989 and the years ahead.

traveled directly to northern California following the convention to conduct an IWW workshop at the Earth First! gathering September 17-18 at Ukiah, just south of the Oregon border). One long-time Wob was heard to say late Sunday that he had never attended an IWW convention more thoroughly under the control of its rank-and-file participants, nor had he seen so much enthusiasm, or for that matter, youth (about one-third of the Wobs attending were under thirty years of age)! Clearly, this year's convention represented a major turning point for our organization, a revival: a revival of the spirit that animated the IWW in its earliest days, signified by the affirmation that economic injustice necessarily entails injustices on a wider scale which cannot be combated merely by faithful adherence to the stifling dictates of "posture" or to "matters of principle" but must be accompanied by a militancy imbued with wholehearted enthusiasm, creativity, flexibility and vision. When all the bosses are gone, we're gonna have to borrow from one another...so why not now?! *Solidarity Forever!*

IWW Lowers Dues?

A GEB-issued referendum which sought an increase in the level of monthly IWW dues payments was voted down by the rank and file last month, and Wobs voted to increase the minimum dues "cap" from \$300 to \$800 (thereby enabling IWW members who earn under \$800 in any given month to pay only \$2 in dues for that month). In other words, dues payments have been effectively lowered for several part-timers and itinerate workers who had previously been obligated to pay full dues because their income exceeded the original \$300 cap. Members also voted to allow the *Industrial Worker* to exchange advertisements with other publications (subject to GEB approval); to make \$600 available for the establishment of an Education Fund; and to make Nelson Bequest Funds available to the General Administration at the request of the General Secretary-Treasurer and majority vote of the GEB.

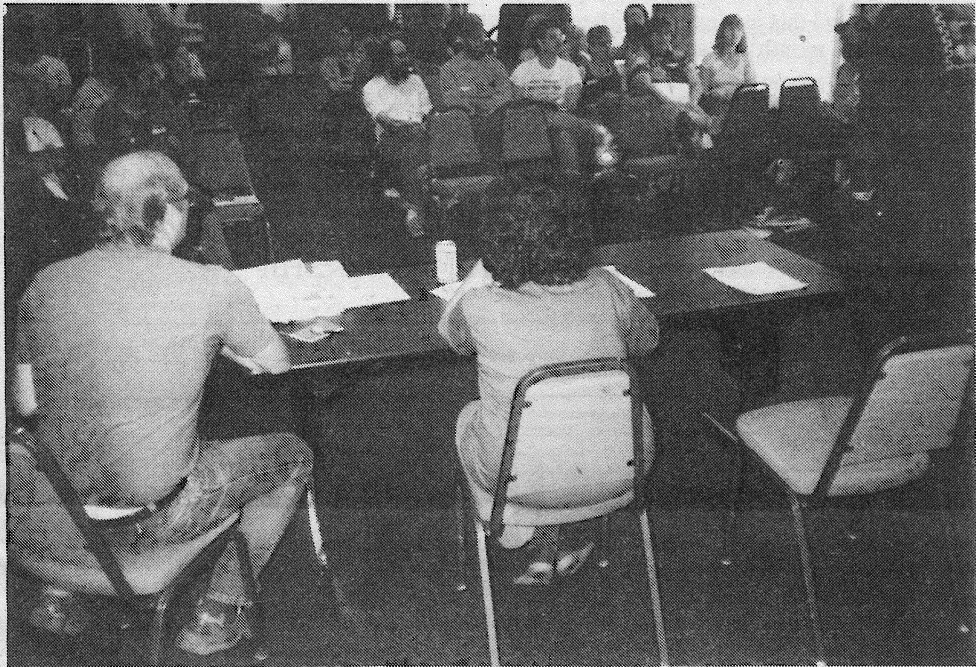


Photo by Greg McDaniels



Convention Chairperson Carlos Cortez (l to r), Convention Secretary Rochelle Semel, and GEB Chair Fred Lee.

A REAL DISASTER FOR CAPITALISM!

REPUBLICANS, DEMOCRATS, STALWARTS AND PROGRESSIVES IN CONSTERNATION.

SOCIALISTS JUBILANT!

Capitalism is digging its own grave. Evolution brings modern methods. Modern methods make possible a ridiculously low-priced special campaign edition of...

SILENT AGITATORS!

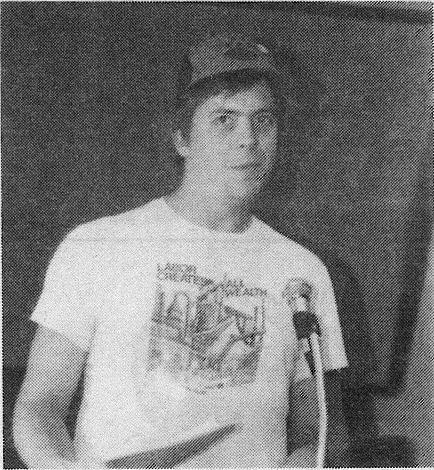
The Best, Quickest and Surest Socialist Makers Ever Produced! (don't faint when you see the prices)

1 Set\$.50
10 Sets\$2.00

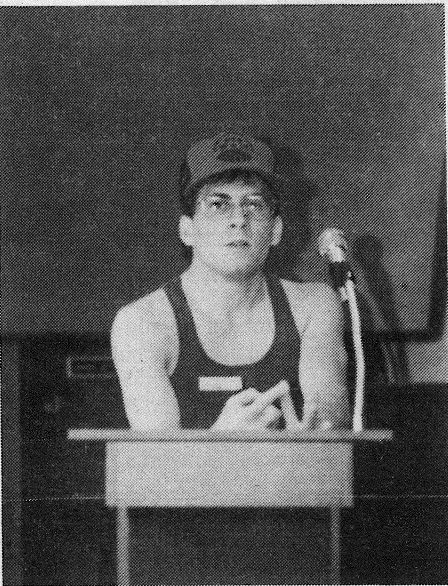
Results Absolutely Guaranteed.

Every Local Needs A Hundred!
Every Branch Needs A Thousand!

Write Now:
Madison IWW, P.O. Box 2605, Madison, Wisconsin, 53701



Jeff Ditz delivers the Industrial Worker committee report.



Mark Plane reports on the activities of the Madison, Wisconsin IWW membership branch.

Nominations For 1989 General Administration Posts

Listed below are the names of those who have been nominated for the IWW's 1989 General Administration. Of those candidates who accept nomination, the three receiving the highest number of nominations for GST will be placed on the ballot, and the twenty-one receiving the highest number of nominations for the GEB will be placed on the ballot. Each candidate has been notified of his/her nomination and has been asked to send their acceptance statement to IWW headquarters in Chicago. Following each nominee's name, in parenthesis, is the number of nominations that candidate has received.

For the office of 1989 General Secretary-Treasurer:

Gary Cox (4)	Paul Poulos (1)
Jeff Ditz (4)	Allan Anger (1)
Richard Linster (4)	Jon Bekken (1)
Fred Lee (3)	Brian Myers (1)

For the 1989 General Executive Board:

Gary Cox (9)	Billy Don Robinson (4)	Allan Anger (1)
Jeff Ditz (9)	Ben Trant (4)	Jon Bekken (1)
Rochelle Semel (9)	Barb Hansen (3)	Dave Bostock (1)
Denny Mealy (8)	Fred Lee (3)	Joe Chang (1)
Tom Wayman (8)	Penny Pixler (3)	Nancy Collins (1)
Bill Culp (7)	Fred Hansen (2)	Frank Devore (1)
Phil Harris (6)	Mike Hargis (2)	Sam Dolgoff (1)
Dave Zatz (6)	R.M.R. Kroopkin (2)	Ted Dymont (1)
Richard Ellington (5)	Mark Plane (2)	Gay Hoon (1)
Myron Price (5)	Paul Poulos (2)	Pat Klees (1)
John Hanson (4)	Louis Prisco (2)	Greg McDaniels (1)
Sandra Nichol (4)	Franklin Rosemont (2)	Joel Williams (1)
	Stan Anderson (1)	

Gilbert Mers Memoirs Now In Print

"Somebody said, 'History is written by the winners. The losers have nothing to say.' This is by one of the losers, a bit player, not the star of the drama." So begins Gilbert Mers in his memoir *Working the Waterfront: The Ups and Downs of a Rebel Longshoreman*, now available in hardcover with an introduction by George Green and an appreciation by Eugene Nelson.

"Whether he is describing the sweaty, dangerous and back-breaking work of loading cotton bales into the hold of an outbound ship or the gut-gripping tension of a face-to-face encounter with Texas Rangers bent on 'law

and order," Mers writes with the voice and conscience of the rank-and-file worker. He paints the waterfront as it was, and perhaps still is--full of danger, humor, dignity in demoralizing circumstances, frustration, struggle and sometimes hope--and tells his story with such wry humanity that even those who disagree with his destination will enjoy the ride."

Working the Waterfront is available from University of Texas Press for \$19.95 (includes postage). Send to: University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713



OREGON SANE

Continued from page 3

impose similar restrictions in Portland), and even though this worker had the highest office rate of renewals and new members as of last month, he is facing dismissal for not "dressing up." Clearly, he has been identified as a militant IWW activist, so now he's a target.

Management harassment by Oregon SANE is much like that which is used by Greenpeace, Fair Share, and several other Public Interest Research Groups. All of these supposedly "progressive" political canvassing organizations prey upon highly motivated, idealistic workers who want to save this planet from destruction. These workers are taken advantage of because they are willing to tolerate

substandard conditions for the good of organization. Then they are overworked, underpaid, burned out to the point of quitting, and are fired if they protest the injustice. This management tactic works very well because it assures a constant supply of innocent workers who are easily forced to prop up a bloated, inefficient "management class" which does not have to pay its own way. Needless to say, all progressive organizations are ultimately harmed by this exploitive destruction of potential activists.

Sound familiar? If it does, take the steps your Fellow Workers have taken! Don't mourn--Organize!

- Members of Oregon SANE (IU 670)

NLRB

Continued from page 1

to remain a member of the local until his retirement.

According to Kuebler, the local might have settled his case for much less money years ago but chose to fight him instead. He estimates that the local has spent in excess of \$500,000 in attorneys fees over the years on his case alone. While he praised the NLRB officials in Brooklyn who processed his case, he calls the process itself "a national disgrace." Despite his ordeal, he remains a strong supporter of unions. "I'll always believe that we need unions," he says. "The union is the little guy's big brother." Kuebler supports the Justice Department's lawsuit to remove the Teamster leadership and replace it with a court-appointed trustee, but he asks the government, "Where were you before now?"

NLRB Chairman James Stephens could not explain why Kuebler's case has taken so long to resolve, observing that the majority of cases are handled "in far less time than that." Stephens also took exception to Benson's claim that the NLRB has a major role to play in combating labor racketeering. The NLRB, he observed, can take action against unions and

employers for discrimination against rank-and-file union members, but it is not empowered to investigate violations of criminal law, which are the responsibility of the Justice Department.

Questioning the legitimacy of Stephens' position, IWW General Secretary-Treasurer (and Teamster dissident) Paul Poulos stated that such a narrow interpretation of the NLRB's role is "all wet and ludicrous. . . (W)hile it is true that the board cannot be expected to intervene in criminal racketeering charges, it most definitely has a duty and responsibility under the act to intervene on the basis that such activity has a chilling and coercive effect on union members' ability to exercise their rights under Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act.

"The beatings, shootings, and economic reprisals which union dissidents suffer in racketeering-controlled and influenced locals are sufficient to hold most members captive," Poulos claims that Stephens is simply "full of shit" and that his narrow reading of the act "fails to recognize the highly discriminatory effect on union members who are silenced by organized crime in their union locals."



. . . and have the satisfaction of belonging to the one labor organization that has never sold out the working class.

Initiation is \$5. Dues are \$5 if you earn \$300 or more per month, or \$2 if you are earning less. As a member you will receive a copy of *Industrial Worker* each month (Value: \$5) and will receive a copy of the *One Big Union* pamphlet, the *IWW Constitution and Bylaws*, a membership button, and of course, your IWW membership card.

Send this application with your check or money order (for your initiation fee and at least one month's dues) to IWW Headquarters in Chicago, or, if you prefer, to one of the IWW Delegates or Branches listed on page 11.

Remember. . . an organization like the IWW depends on active members, who know that a union which lacks solidarity and a participatory spirit is no union at all. Join the IWW. Don't trust to luck.

Application No. _____
Form 5

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Do you agree to abide by the constitution

and regulations of this organization? _____

Will you study its principles and
make yourself acquainted with its purposes? _____

Name _____

Occupation _____

Industry _____

Address _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____

Date _____

I. U. No. _____

Card No. _____

Initiation _____

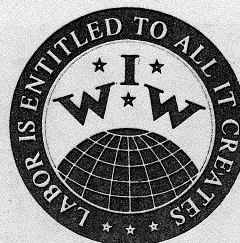
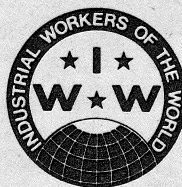
Dues _____

Asst's. _____

Total _____

Del. Name _____

No. _____



NEW IWW BUTTONS AVAILABLE!

Available for purchase in mid-November, these are the best-looking IWW buttons we've seen outside of museums and private collections. They're black on red (and the larger one has gold lettering on the outside ring), and you have a choice between the words "Industrial Workers of the World" and "Labor is Entitled to All it Creates." These buttons are based upon the design of the IWW buttons which our members were wearing around 1915, and they are so striking you'll want to order them by the bulk! Send in your orders now! \$1.00 per button, and the usual discounts apply.

Order Today!

Call for warm bodies at the first perennial

CONFERENCE ON WORKERS' SELF-ORGANIZATION

St. Louis, Missouri
November 11-13, 1988

American Labor in the 1980s
Shop-Floor Action
Workers' Self-Education
Racism
Third World Organizing
European Labor
Alternatives to Vanguardism

Films, Slides, Videos:
Including *Our Land Too*; *The Wobblies*;
La Coordinadora; *Organizing*
St. Louis Gasworkers

Speakers:

Stan Weir, Seymour Fabor
Martin Glaberman, Jim Guyette,
George Lipsitz, H.L. Mitchell,
Peter Rachleff, George Rawick,
Dave Roediger, Fred Whitehead

Registration Fee: \$20
For Registration Information call 314/
727-8554 or write WD Press, P.O. Box
24115, St. Louis, MO 63130

Sponsoring Organizations: Industrial
Workers of the World (Chicago Branch),
New Union Party, Socialist Party USA,
Workers' Democracy,
Workers Solidarity Alliance

Native Peoples' Misery in Nicaragua

A Criolla Affair

by Jorge Quintana

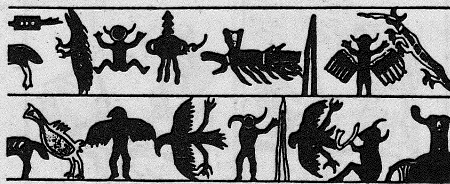
As I was leaving Nicaragua's A. C. Sandino International Airport on July 1, after spending the last eight months in my country, I couldn't help that tears rolled down my face. I had been a witness, and had suffered, the misery and the pain which my people have been forced into by the two political-military forces, FSLN and Contras.

While Sandinista commanders call on the people for more sacrifices, and meet with Contra leaders in the best hotel in the country to discuss "peace" over tables full of rich food and drink, throughout my country, people are starving, dying from diseases, killed in the war, or, in the best of cases, leaving the country. The search for food, medicine, clothes, housing, gas, etc. in Nicaragua is arduous and often unproductive. And once these needed items are found, the prices are so high that most people can't afford them.

The main reason (and there are many, including the Reagan-sponsored Contra war) for this situation is that the prices have no government control while the salaries are fixed by the government. For example, the price of a pound of rice is between 100 and 120 cordobas (\$1.25 to \$1.50) while the minimum salary is only of 650 cordobas (\$8.12) monthly. The higher salary (a Ph.D. Agronomist engineer, as in my own case) is of 9,750 cordobas (\$121.88) monthly. There is no more government rationing of staples (rice, beans, sugar, cooking oil, laundry soap) but, contrary to what people in the USA may believe, this is not good. Before, people could get at least a small portion of their staple needs at subsidized government prices they could afford. Now, one pound of rice per day (30 pounds monthly) would cost 3,000 cordobas, a salary that most people (60% or more) in Nicaragua don't get.

At the same time, the government military apparatus is literally hunting the young people (from 16 years old or less to 40 years old or

While the above happens to the normal citizen, mostly mestizos and Indians, the children of government officials (usually "Criollo" families, descendants from Spanish and other European invaders) are out of the country studying in European countries and even the USA with generous scholarships, while their parents and the rest of their families live in



mansions, drive expensive cars, eat in expensive restaurants, travel frequently outside the country, and get their staples, clothes, medicines, and other articles from the "Diplo-tiendas" (stores where everything is sold in dollars and, logically, outside the reach of the normal citizen).

On the other side, the Contras concentrate their actions in destroying the country's capacity to produce food and export crops. Because of their military incapacity to defeat the

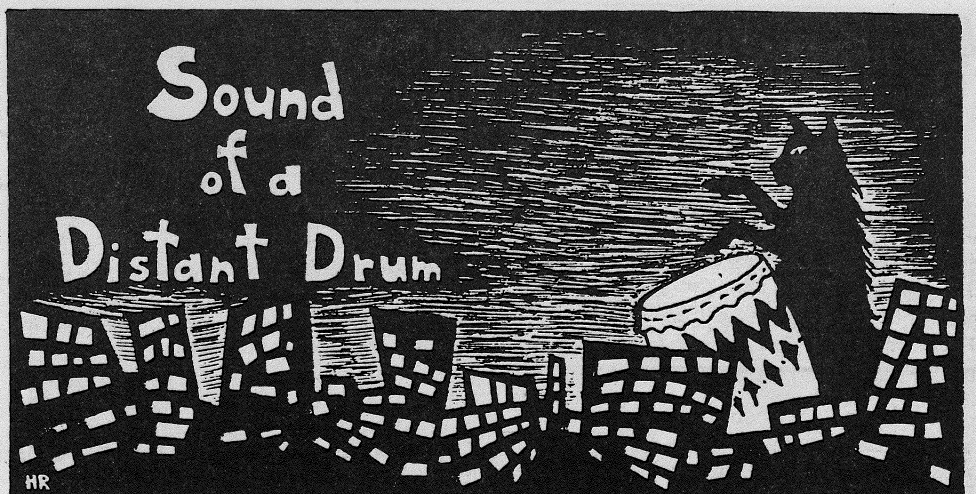
Here and there, though, one hears the whispers of the Indian community model. Without much fanfare, the Indian consciousness is coming up again in Nicaragua.

Sandinista army in the battle field and their total inability to inspire a population that already knows their motive, the Contras attack the smallest agricultural cooperatives and communities in the interior of the country (usually worked by Indians and mestizos) destroying their capacity to produce, murdering the people, and kidnapping others to reinforce their army; meanwhile their leaders direct the war from luxurious hotels and mansions in Honduras, Costa Rica and Miami, and their bank accounts grow steadily.

The irony, not lost to the regular people, is that the Contra leaders belong to the same social group (descendants of foreign invaders) as most of the Sandinista commanders, and, often, to the same families. It is a situation where one has to be extremely naive to believe that there is a "class struggle" going on in Nicaragua. For example, what class struggle can go on between Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, "contra leader" and his brother, Fernando Chamorro, Director of the official Sandinista newspaper *Barricada*?; or between their uncle, Javier Chamorro, Director of the Sandinista newspaper *Nuevo Diario* (known also as *Nuevo Dades*, for its resemblance with Somoza's newspaper *Novedades*) and their mother, Violeta Chamorro, Director of the opposition newspaper *La Prensa*? Or between Carlos Holman, Associated Director of *La Prensa* and his son Eduardo Holman, Sandinista Agriculture Vice-minister? Or between Ricardo and Manuel Coronel, both Agriculture Vice-ministers, and their brother Carlos Coronel, member of the "contras". The list goes on and on.

Underneath this "official" Nicaragua that has traded power as "conservatives and liberals, Contras and Sandinistas" now for much too long, there is still a people waiting for a grassroots liberation. Many fought and suffered against the Somoza dictatorship and will never accept the "Contra" solution. A few of the Sandinista leadership might have been "comrades in arms" to the people, but truly they are few, and their privileged existence is tolerated mostly because the "Contra" leadership is that much more feared and despised.

Here and there, though, one hears the whispers of the Indian community model. Without much fanfare, the Indian consciousness is coming up again in Nicaragua. One hears it in the barrios and among the young soldiers and among elders that still work the land and can remember our deeper national identity. The future augured in that Indian identity is a whole other element, neither left nor right--and it will sprout directly from our Nicaraguan earth.



In a few years time political theorists, university dons and beer hall philosophers will argue, debate and state why across the world there is a swing to the middle class right to take over the command and ordering of our lives. Wars and revolutions within a single lifetime has dimmed the flame of idealism and for too many it is desirable to crawl back into the darkness of the cave. From China to America the acceptance of rightwing political administrations to act as paternalistic prison guards with the sop of individual greed as a reward has come to be accepted as a cosy hell with no exits.

Within Britain's cheerful islands Ma Thatcher and the Tory Party lead the political polls as the people's choice while the economy, the liberty and the social conscience of the collective state is destroyed for the pleasure and the profit of Britain's middle class.

Even Britain's Communist Party has decided to join in the hunt for that ol' middleclass vote. In one of its orthodox internal heresy purges which gives membership of the Communist Party its psychopathic fun, the Old Guard were expelled--by vote comrades, *by vote*--and the Communist Party of Great Britain burst onto an indifferent world as the leaders of the Masses. They are no more than the leavings of the Euro-Communist Parties that are flowering like the biblical green bay trees in every country in western Europe, and in Britain's draft document they argue that the "class war" is strictly for the birds. My fellow drinkers in the White Hart Pub continually tell me the same, that there ain't no working class anymore and whose turn is it to buy the next round of drinks.

The CPGB accept, publicly, that Britain is a share-owning democracy with every worker seeking to buy their tiny house and to have a "secret" union vote. By pandering to this shallow fallacy the CPGB are seeking not the illusive political control of Britain but a power base within the unions and in all those lovely freeloading political setups within the European Common Market racket.

With their expulsion the old guard CP took with them the CP party's newspaper and it still seeks to tell its version of the "truth" while the moneyless unemployed still queue for work, Britain's poor still seek to buy cheap food in the marketplaces and Britain's sick still sit out

the drear hours in the State clinics and the homeless men, women and their children still seek illusive shelter so that although the British European Communists and Ma Thatcher's Tory Party may have found a common political cause and a common social agreement the old, homeless, sick and poor are still here to weep and to mock.

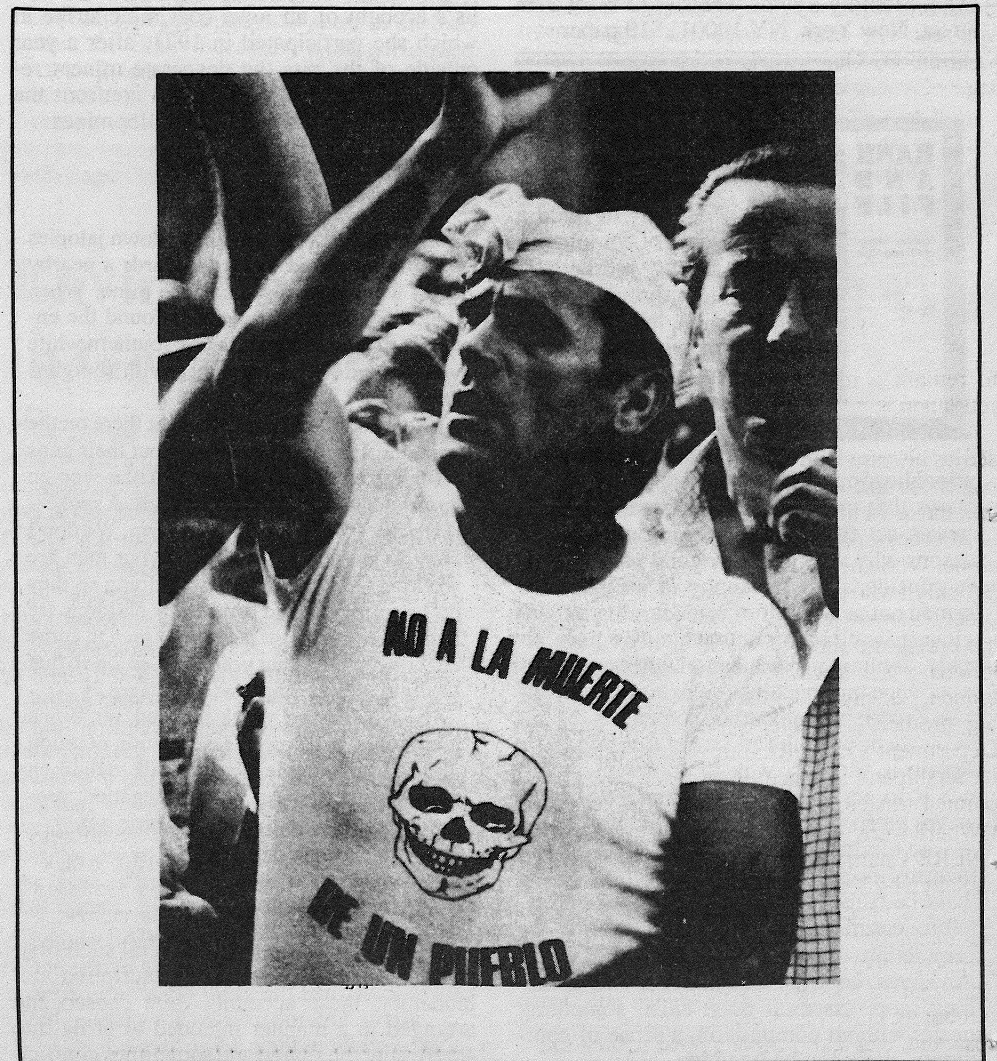
As a wave of small strikes burn and burn themselves out with the workers too, too often beaten, Britain's Godfathers of the Trade Union Congress have been finally pushed into expelling the "cowboy" electrician's union. For too long the TUC godfathers have been holed up in their well-heated rear funk holes while the new American style craft union led the Life of Riley with "no strike" union deals and "single union" deals with any grateful employer happy for a captive workforce in exchange for temporary wage deals. But the small strikes that once won the attention of the media no longer interest its reading public. The crews of the cross channel ferries still stand on their lonely picket line but the ferries sail back and forth and the striking seamen and women are left to fight a losing battle. Britain's nurses have been betrayed by Ma Thatcher's Tory Party in that the promised pay rise that was hailed as an emotional triumph for the striking nurses has not been paid and once more the nurses are on the picket line but the national press does not deem it newsworthy.

The postal workers have begun a strike protest and like the Charge of the Light Brigade its heroes are charging forward to fight a cause already lost. Their cause is just in that the government postal authorities intend to pay separate wage increases in different areas with a fuck you Jack I'm alright credo and against that the postal workers are voting for a 24 hour strike. But the union bosses advertised it so well that the postal authorities have made every arrangement to beat them and Ma Thatcher is waiting to use the 24 hour strike as an excuse to break up Britain's postal service and handing it over to the private speculators for their own personal profit. Let us join the picket line comrades and fight the good fight but never let us delude ourselves. Meanwhile, if any comrade knows if the Turin shroud really wrapped around the body of Christ don't phone me I'll phone you.

--Arthur Moyse

Underneath this "official" Nicaragua that has traded power as "conservatives and liberals, Contras and Sandinistas" now for much too long, there is still a people waiting for a grassroots liberation.

more) to be sent to the battle front to fight the Contras, while their families stay in the cities with no economic help (sometimes the government offers the families a ridiculous 'symbolic' help that ranges between 100 to 500 cordobas monthly).



Book Review

The Massachusetts Myth

The Massachusetts Miracle: High Technology and Economic Revitalization, edited by David Lampe. MIT Press \$16.95 cloth.

A lot of business books have crossed my desk since I started working as a professional book reviewer, ranging from technical expositions of the new telecommunications and information processing technologies to breathless accounts of the immense profits to be realized through granting workings the appearance of involvement in corporate decision-making and life. (To judge by the books I see, employers are particularly concerned over their highly-skilled, professional workers who are proving difficult to supervise efficiently and who sometimes seem driven by concerns other than maximizing corporate profitability. Clearly such a situation cannot be allowed to continue.) But a handful of these titles beg for more than the summaries and rote praise my employers demand and pay for.

Massachusetts Miracle is such a book. Not because it is particularly insightful or well done. It isn't. Nor is it particularly useful as a guide to what we can expect should Dukakis beat out the former CIA agent/director come November.

Rather, it is a case study of how the banks and corporations held Massachusetts hostage, taking advantage of hard economic times to force massive tax and other concessions and touching off the bidding war where state governments now vie with each other to see who can ladle out the tax dollars paid by us working stiff to the rich and powerful the fastest--the "winning" state's workers getting the opportunity to work to help maintain our employers in the manner to which they have become accustomed.

The editor has gathered together 21 documents--mostly by Boston bankers, but also including contributions from politicians, an industry consortium, academics and a newspaper columnists--tying the whole package together with an 18-page introduction and brief comments to contextualize each piece. These are dispatches from the front, covering the period from December of 1971 (when the First National Bank of Boston fired its first salvo against "excessive government spending," particularly in the areas of social welfare and environmental protection) to May of 1987 when the Bank of Boston advised third world countries on how they could follow Massachusetts' example.

In response to the propaganda barrage, government officials quickly moved to reassure business that they were committed to a favorable "business climate." Although Massachusetts' tax burden was nearly identical to the national average, the government quickly moved to offer tax incentives and trim spending. This was a bipartisan policy, though Republican Governor Sargent promised that "no let up in our fight against pollution. . . there is simply too much at stake" while, a few years later, Governor Dukakis promised offshore oil exploration and threw jobless workers off the unemployment compensation rolls. Dukakis did temper his promises to give business everything it desired with calls for national full-employment and health-insurance policies and welfare reform, (though given his ideas on how to reform the unemployment insurance system, such seemingly "liberal" policies might seem less than promising), though these remained little more than rhetoric.

The bottom line was that business got pretty much what it wanted. Taxes were cut, teachers were thrown out on the streets, the poor had

their benefits cut or eliminated. But all these giveaways had virtually no effect on the economic crisis. Even the much-heralded "social contract", where 89 high-tech employers promised 60,000 new jobs in exchange for further tax cuts and an improved business

I made \$12 an hour at the steel mill until I was laid off.



So, I took computer classes and now I earn \$6 an hour.



Soon a more sophisticated computer will eliminate my job.



I've achieved state-of-the-art unemployment!



Carol Simpson © 1987

climate, was a con job--the companies now admit they were going to increase hiring in any event.

What, then, accounts for the state's economic revival? The answer seems to be a

combination of three factors--increased federal defense spending (particularly in high-tech); the state's abundance of skilled workers needed to support high-tech industries and the proximity of research institutes which could help support such efforts; and the low wages prevailing in the area, particularly for skilled labor. Indeed, the documents reprinted here make it clear that Massachusetts' wages have remained low despite a relatively high cost of living, even with lower unemployment rates.

Why this should be is never explained, but one suspects that the high-tech industry's highly-educated, skilled workers have not yet learned the advantages of organization and industrial action. Taken as a whole, the book makes it clear that state policies (including the massive give-aways to the corporations) had little if any impact on Massachusetts' economic crisis, and might even have served to prolong it. A recent report in *Dollars & Sense* indicates that First National bankers tried to discourage MIT from releasing this book before the election, concerned that it might undercut Dukakis' chances of winning (and their chances of sharing in the spoils). Perhaps it will, though why this should concern any working stiff is beyond me. (After all, we've been suffering under similar policies on a national level for years).

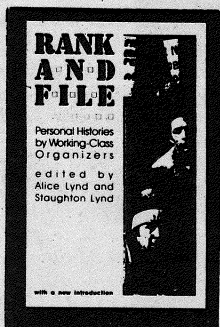
All in all, this is a book you might well want to read (I especially recommend the article on military spending and high-tech). At \$16.95 for more than 350 pages it is priced reasonably enough (particularly in comparison to the bloated prices being charged by some allegedly labor-oriented publishers), but it's probably not something you need to add to your permanent collection. Your local library should have a copy.

- JB

Book Review

In Our Own Words

Rank and File edited by Alice and Staughton Lynd. Monthly Review Press (122 West 27th Street, New York, NY 10001) \$10 paper.



The workplace is not a classroom, and experienced organizers know that the best way to build a sense of community among workers is not through coercion, lectures, arguments, logic or one-upsmanship, but rather--as Saul Alinsky once pointed out--through simple

rationalization. The seasoned organizer knows that most people in a great many instances act first and think afterward of the reasons why they acted. A good part of what we consider our philosophy or attitudes are formed not as a result of rote learning but are self-justifications for acts which we have already committed. Education understood as experience thus becomes an exciting and intimate experience rather than something distant and academic. As the editors of *Rank and File* explain it, the best way to communicate an idea is to act it out: "The moment of truth arrives when you and I are working together, you are discharged, and I find myself putting down my tools or stopping my machine before I have had time to think." To put it succinctly, before certification procedures, before the formulation of bargaining units, chartering provisions, contract ratifications, etc., something more essential must exist, something innate: without compassion, a sense of community, there can be no union.

In *Rank and File's* new introduction this point is demonstrated through Christine Ellis's account of an Iowa coal mine strike in which she participated in 1921; after a year outside of the pits the desperate miners resolved to go--guns in hand--to confront the scabs working some of the smaller mines:

The armed caravan in broken-down jalopies left our town and headed towards a nearby town where scabs worked the mine. When they arrived at the mine they found the entrance to the mine guarded by southern white women and teenagers armed with shotguns and rifles.

Instead of shooting it out right there on the spot, the union leaders wisely put their guns on the ground and approached the women and youth with outstretched hands. A spokesman said, "We mean you no harm. We don't want to shoot you. We know your men are working for low wages but in doing so they do harm to you and to us. Our children are hungry. All we want is for your men to come out with us. We want you in our union so that together we can improve our wages."

The women and youth listened, put down their guns and allowed a delegation of union miners to go into the mine and talk to the men who were scabbing. The delegation succeeded in getting the men to come out.

Rank and File consists of several such first-person accounts. Neither prescriptive nor laudatory, these accounts were chosen and arranged in a manner intended to bring into sharp relief the shared and sometimes conflict-

ing experiences of real shop-floor activists. The book does not attempt to promote any particular ideological thesis but rather offers us the valuable insights of rank-and-filers in

"Moving through a variety of frustrating and demeaning jobs, finding themselves involved in struggles not of their own making, the contributors to this book developed their ideas on the basis of what they saw and did, felt and tried."

their own words and within the context of their unique experiences. The editors do acknowledge their assumption that labor history is not created by famous leaders or by "faceless masses," arguing instead that the movement draws its life from the many thousands of committed persons who work "day after day, year after year, to bring unions into being, to resist their bureaucratization and to better the lives of others, not just themselves."

Importantly, the book also challenges the assumption that radical beliefs result from the influence of middleclass intellectuals or foreigners. A few of those interviewed, we are told, inherited much of their outlook from their parents, but most did not: "Moving through a variety of frustrating and demeaning jobs, finding themselves involved in struggles not of their own making, rethinking what they had taken for granted, the contributors to this book

developed their ideas on the basis of what they saw and did, felt and tried."

Like Dan Georgakas's *Solidarity Forever: An Oral History of the IWW*, *Rank and File* deserves the attention not only of all Wobblies but of anyone interested in where labor activism has been in the past and where it shall go in the future. This new edition has been dedicated by its editors to the future of the labor movement. To those who subscribe to the notion that lasting social change must begin with a basic transformation of the process of production, I submit that such a transformation must begin in each of our hearts. *Rank and File* inspires because it challenges the deterministic and cynical outlook of academics, piecards and professional intellectuals, appealing instead to that irrepressible spirit, limitless imagination, energy and innate solidarity which is called for in our movement today more than ever before.

- BWM



DIRECTORY

of IWW Branches & Delegates

UNITED STATES

ALASKA. Ruth Sheridan, Delegate, 4704 Kenai, Anchorage 99508.

CALIFORNIA. San Francisco Bay Area General Membership Branch, Box 40485, San Francisco, 94140. * Richard Ellington, Delegate, 6448 Irwin Court, Oakland 94609. 415-658-0293. * San Diego IWW Group, PO Box 16989, San Diego 92116.

COLORADO. Denver-Boulder General Membership Branch, 2412 E. Colfax Ave., Denver 80206. 303-388-1065. Open Saturdays 9-12 noon. Meetings at 7 pm, second Sunday of each month. Educational Forums monthly (call for date, time and location). Gary Cox, Branch Sec'y, Box 478, Johnstown 80534. 303-587-4507. * David Frazer, Delegate, Box 6, Rollinsville 80474. 303-494-4809. * Lowell May, Delegate, 2201 Eliot, Denver 80211. 303-458-0870.

FLORIDA. Fred Hansen, Delegate, Box 824, New Port Richey, 34656.

GEORGIA. Atlanta IWW Group. PO Box 54766, Atlanta, 30308-0766, 404-378-5542.

ILLINOIS. Chicago General Membership Branch (M. Hargis, Sec'y), 3435 North Sheffield, Suite 202, Chicago 60657. 312-549-5045. * Chicago General Defense Committee Local 2 (same address as Chicago Branch). * Champaign-Urbana IWW Group Box 2824, Station A, Champaign 61820.

KENTUCKY. Louisville IWW Group, 2024 Baringer Avenue, Louisville 37581.

LOUISIANA. Shreveport IWW Group, PO Box 37581, Shreveport 71133.

MARYLAND. Baltimore Area Branch (General Membership), PO Box 33528, Baltimore, 21218. (301)947-8385. Rosana Marino, Secretary. Meets 2nd Wednesday every month. Regional Organizing Committee, Greg Buckingham, Chair, Rt. 1, Box 137A Arvonnia, VA 23004.

MASSACHUSETTS. Boston General Membership Branch, Box 454, Cambridge 02139, 617-522-7090. * Berkshire Learning Center Job Branch, 35 Curtis Terrace, Pittsfield 01201.

MICHIGAN. Southeast Michigan General Membership Branch, 42 South Summit, Ypsilanti 48197. 313-483-3478. Meetings second Monday of each month at 7:30 pm in Room 4001 of the Michigan Union. * University Cellar I.U. 660 Job Branch, 425 South Summit, Ypsilanti, 48197. * People's Wherehouse I.U. 660 Job Branch c/o Sarah Rucker, 727 West Ellsworth Road, Ann Arbor 48104. * Grand Rapids IWW, PO Box 211, Comstock Park, 49321. * Delegate, 1101 Cottage Row, Hancock 49930.

MINNESOTA. Minneapolis-St. Paul General Membership Branch (Nancy A. Collins, Delegate), PO Box 2245, St. Paul 55102. Meetings third Wednesday of each month.

MONTANA. Western Montana General Membership Branch Hall, 415 North Higgins, Room 104, Missoula. Open Monday through Saturday, 12-5. 800-873-4000 or 406-721-3000. A.L. Nurse, Delegate. Address all correspondence to IWW Branch, PO Box 8562, Missoula 59807.

NEW YORK. New York General Membership Branch, Box 183, New York 10028. * Rochelle Semel, Delegate, PO Box 172, Fly Creek 13337. 607-293-6489 or 212-662-8801. * Jackie Panish, Delegate, PO Box 372, Rego Park, New York 11374. 212-868-1121. * John Hansen, 302 Avenue C, Brooklyn 11218. 718-854-2692. * Henry Pfaff, Delegate, 77 Eckhart, Buffalo 14207. 716-877-6073. * Robert Young, Delegate, Box 920, Wingdale 12594. * Joe O'Shea, Delegate, Winkler's Farm, Townner's Road, Carmel 10512.

OHIO. Southwest Ohio General Membership Branch and General Defense Committee Local #1, PO Box 26381, Dayton 45426. SW Ohio General Defense Committee Local #3 c/o John Perotti 167712, P.O. Box 46599, Lucasville, 46599-0001.

PENNSYLVANIA. Tom Hill, Delegate, Box 41928, Philadelphia 19101.

SOUTH CAROLINA. Harbinger Publications I.U. 450 Job Branch, 18 Bluff Road, Columbia 29201. 803-254-9398.

TEXAS. Gilbert Mers, Delegate, 7031 Kemel, Houston 77087. 713-921-0877.

VIRGINIA. Richmond IWW Group, P.O. Box 4584, Richmond, 23233-8584. 804-353-4023. * Greg Buckingham, Rte. 1, Box 137A, Arvonnia, 23004.

WASHINGTON. Bellingham General Membership Branch, Box 1386, Bellingham 98227. * Seattle General Membership Branch, 3238 33rd Avenue South, Seattle 98144. * Spokane IWW Group, PO Box 1273, Spokane 99210. * Tacoma/Olympia General Membership Branch, 2115 South Sheridan, Tacoma 98405. 206-272-8119.

WISCONSIN. Madison General Membership Branch, PO Box 2605, Madison 53701. 608-251-1937 or 249-4287.

CANADA

Vancouver General Membership Branch, PO Box 65635, Station F, Vancouver, B.C. V5N 5K5. * Toronto General Membership Branch, 20 Kensington Place, Toronto, Ontario M56 2K4. Phone c/o Blackbird Design (416) 591-7577. * Robin Oye, Delegate, 16 Wellington St. South, Kitchener, Ontario N2G 2E5. * J.B. McAndrew, Delegate, 7216 Mary Avenue (1204), Burnaby V5E 3K5.

GREAT BRITAIN

Dan Czumys, 13 Wolsey Street off Heslington Road, York, YO 5BQ, England.

SOLIDARITY FOREVER!

IWW BRANCH NEWS



DENVER

Mr. Block lives! This time he appeared in the body of a speaker at the Lafayette, Colorado Historical Society, telling how his granddaddy took on the Wobblies (he calls us the International Workmen of the World) in the '20s at the Simpson Coal Mine nearby.

"We new they were associated with the Communists," this Block reasoned, "because they used the term 'solidarity' a lot, and that's the same word used for a name by that union in Poland!"

The Denver-Boulder Branch has also been supporting Mailers' Local #8 (CWA) in their picket of the Denver Post which has now reduced their wages by one half. The AFL-CIO Jobs With Justice campaign has also joined in, resulting in two mass rallies at the Post with hundreds of vocal workers at each. Nice to see some business unionists doing something about "an injury to one", but they couldn't seem to remember our name when it came to announcing participants, and what's this stuff about saving the middle class they keep talking about?

Local Wobs are circulating petitions in support of Greenpeace workers (and potential new Wobs) bucking their bureaucrats. The appeal to the IWW came out of Seattle and is based on claims by Greenpeace staffers that the higher-ups spy and eavesdrop on staff members.

"Full steam ahead!" for the Columbine Mine Massacre Memorial Project in Colorado. Denver-Boulder branch reps brought home the good news that the Wob convention allocated needed funds. Now the United Mine Workers of America and three local and state historical societies are on board--the 61st anniversary of the IWW/Columbine massacre, November 21st, will be marked by a memorial program and the dedication of the monument in north Colorado. Make plans to attend. . .

Homeless advocate Dorothy King led a takeover of an empty HUD house in Denver. With the support of this branch and some of the thousands of homeless--but not powerless--of the area HUD was forced to reassess its handling of government-owned, foreclosed houses and make a commitment to providing homes to the homeless. The struggle continues.

Speaking of which, Local P-9 (Boycott Hormel!), Austin (Scab City), Minnesota, had a great turnout for their summer picnic in August, including FW Cox of Colorado. Cox reports that the will to win remains undiminished. The newest front: a lawsuit to uncover the collusion between Hormel and the UFCW. To send contributions or seek more info: Packinghouse Justice Fund, P.O. Box 655, Austin MN 55912.

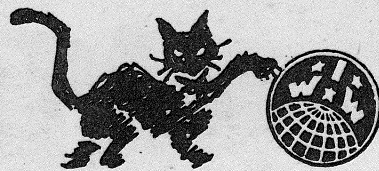
CHICAGO

Chicago Wobs received the attention of several local TV and radio stations last month as a result of two protests they participated in. On September 17th and 18th Chicago Branch members joined local Earth First!ers in a "No Jails for Whales" march held near the city's Shedd Aquarium, where a huge oceanarium is under construction for the purpose of housing endangered whales illegally acquired by the aquarium's administrators. On September 26th Chicago Wobs marched again, this time in front of Chicago's Canadian consulate on the occasion of the "International Day of Howling" against the Canadian government's ongoing wolf-kill program in British Columbia.

Carlos Cortez read his poem "Where Are the Voices?" and took part in a roundtable discussion on workers' art held in mid-September at the Chicago Athletic Club to raise funds for the "Committed to Print" exhibition (see *Industrial Worker's* review in our March issue) which will be moved to the Peace Museum in Chicago for display this fall.

VANCOUVER

On August 31 the workers at Eastside DataGraphics (IU 450) offered the unions representing Vancouver steel, restaurant and postal employees currently on strike or locked out \$100 in free stationary or typesetting. The unions involved are the Canadian Association of Industrial, Mechanical and Allied Workers and the Union of Postal Communications employees. In addition, Eastside promised a 30 percent discount on all school supplies for the children of workers involved in the labor dispute.



New York's "Rebel Voices" Bulletin is Revived

Rebel Voices--the multi-page publication of the New York IWW--is now back!

The premier issue of the new *Rebel Voices* will contain news articles, "how-to" guides for the rank-and-file activist, labor law and statistics etc.. It's published in an 8 1/2" by 11" format and will be issued quarterly. For a sample copy send \$2.50 to the branch, care of the address in the directory.

Preamble of the Industrial Workers of the World

THE WORKING CLASS AND THE EMPLOYING CLASS HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON! THERE CAN BE NO PEACE SO LONG AS HUNGER AND WANT ARE FOUND AMONG MILLIONS OF WORKING PEOPLE AND THE FEW, WHO MAKE UP THE EMPLOYING CLASS, HAVE ALL THE GOOD THINGS OF LIFE.

BETWEEN THESE TWO CLASSES A STRUGGLE MUST GO ON UNTIL THE WORKERS OF THE WORLD ORGANIZE AS A CLASS, TAKE POSSESSION OF THE EARTH AND THE MACHINERY OF PRODUCTION, AND ABOLISH THE WAGE SYSTEM.

WE FIND THAT THE CENTERING OF THE MANAGEMENT OF INDUSTRIES INTO FEWER AND FEWER HANDS MAKES THE TRADE UNIONS UNABLE TO COPE WITH THE EVER GROWING POWER OF THE EMPLOYING CLASS. THE TRADE UNIONS FOSTER A STATE OF AFFAIRS WHICH ALLOWS ONE SET OF WORKERS TO BE PITTED AGAINST ANOTHER SET OF WORKERS IN THE SAME INDUSTRY, THEREBY HELPING DEFEAT ONE ANOTHER IN WAGE WARS. MOREOVER, THE TRADE UNIONS AID THE EMPLOYING CLASS TO MISLEAD THE WORKERS INTO THE BELIEF THAT THE WORKING CLASS HAVE INTERESTS IN COMMON WITH THEIR EMPLOYERS.

THESE CONDITIONS CAN BE CHANGED AND THE INTEREST OF THE WORKING CLASS UPHOLD ONLY BY AN ORGANIZATION FORMED IN SUCH A WAY THAT ALL ITS MEMBERS IN ANY ONE INDUSTRY, OR IN ALL INDUSTRIES IF NECESSARY, CEASE WORK WHENEVER A STRIKE OR LOCKOUT IS ON IN ANY DEPARTMENT THEREOF, THUS MAKING AN INJURY TO ONE AN INJURY TO ALL.

INSTEAD OF THE CONSERVATIVE MOTTO, "A FAIR DAY'S WAGE FOR FAIR DAY'S WORK," WE MUST INSCRIBE ON OUR BANNER THE REVOLUTIONARY WATCHWORD, "ABOLITION OF THE WAGE SYSTEM."

IT IS THE HISTORIC MISSION OF THE WORKING CLASS TO DO AWAY WITH CAPITALISM. THE ARMY OF PRODUCTION MUST BE ORGANIZED, NOT ONLY FOR THE EVERY-DAY STRUGGLE WITH CAPITALISTS, BUT ALSO TO CARRY ON PRODUCTION WHEN CAPITALISM SHALL HAVE BEEN OVERTHROWN. BY ORGANIZING INDUSTRIALLY WE ARE FORMING THE STRUCTURE OF THE NEW SOCIETY WITHIN THE SHELL OF THE OLD.

B O O K S

FOR REBEL WORKERS

IWW PUBLICATIONS

- ☐ One Big Union (about the IWW) 1.25
- ☐ The General Strike by Ralph Chaplin 2.50
- ☐ IWW Songs: The Little Red Songbook 2.50
- ☐ Collective Bargaining Manual 2.50
- ☐ Workers' Guide to Direct Action 35
- ☐ Unions and Racism 1.00
- ☐ Metal Workers' Health & Safety 50
- ☐ A Quiz on You and the Arms Race 10
- ☐ The IWW: Its First Seventy Years by Fred Thompson cloth 15.00; paper . . 4.95
- ☐ History of the IWW in Canada 50
- ☐ The Rebel Girl (sheet music) 1.00
- ☐ We Have Fed You All for 1000 Years (LP record/IWW Songs-no discount) 8.50
- ☐ IWW Preamble and Constitution 1.00

IWW POSTERS by Carlos Cortez

- ☐ Lucy Parsons ☐ Joe Hill ☐ General Strike
- ☐ Fat Cat ☐ Huelga General ☐ Ben Fletcher
- ☐ Draftees of the World, Unite \$10.00 postpaid

BOOKS FROM OTHER PUBLISHERS

- ☐ Rebel Voices: An IWW Anthology by Joyce Kambh 18.95
- ☐ The Yale Strike of 1984-84 5.95
- ☐ Roll the Union On: Pictorial History of Southern Tenant Farmers' Union by H.L. Mitchell 7.95
- ☐ Bye! American - Labor Cartoons by Gary Huck & Mike Konopacki 7.95
- ☐ Memoirs of a Wobbly by Henry McGuckin . . . 5.95
- ☐ Haymarket Scrapbook 14.95
- ☐ Haymarket Postcards (set of 28) 12.00
- ☐ Altgeld's Reasons for Pardoning the Haymarket Anarchists 3.95
- ☐ Crime and Criminals by C. Darrow 2.50
- ☐ You Have No Country! Workers' Struggle Against War by Mary E. Marcy 4.50
- ☐ Dreams and Dynamite (poems by Covington Hall) 3.95
- ☐ Mr. Block: 24 IWW Cartoons by Ernest Riebe 4.95
- ☐ Life & Deeds of Uncle Sam by Oscar Ameringer 3.95
- ☐ Rise and Repression of Radical Labor 3.95
- ☐ The Flivver King: A Story of Ford-America by Upton Sinclair 7.95
- ☐ Lucy Parsons: American Revolutionary . . . 6.95
- ☐ The Right to Be Lazy by Paul Lafargue . . . 2.75
- ☐ The Head-Fixing Industry by J. Keracher . . . 3.00
- ☐ The Soul of Man Under Socialism by Oscar Wilde 3.95
- ☐ The Life of Thomas Skidmore 3.95
- ☐ Labor Law for the Rank-and-File 2.50
- ☐ Didactic Verse by Henry Pfaff (IWW humor) 2.00

Please add 10% extra for postage.

DISCOUNTS ON BULK ORDERS

40% discount on prepaid bulk orders of five or more copies of any item on this list, unless otherwise indicated, 30% discount on similar orders that require invoicing. Postage will be added to all orders that are not prepaid. Please allow three weeks for delivery.

AVAILABLE FROM IWW LOCALS

- ☐ Out of the Depths (best book on the Ludlow Massacre), \$10 postpaid from Gary Cox, P.O. Box 478, Johnstown CO. 80534. Checks payable to Colorado Labor Forum. (All proceeds to P-9.)
- ☐ A Workers' Guide to Direct Action. .50 from N.Y. IWW, P.O. Box 183, NY 10028
- ☐ Introduction to the IWW. .10 each; bulk rate 40%, prepaid, from San Francisco IWW, P.O. Box 40485, San Francisco, California 94140.
- ☐ Solidarity Bulletin (monthly publication) \$10/yr. from Vancouver IWW, PO Box 65635, Station F, Vancouver, B.C. Canada V5N 3K5
- ☐ Amnesty for British Miners (enamel & gold buttons) \$10 each from Chicago IWW Branch, 3435 N. Sheffield, Suite 202, Chicago, IL. 60657. (All proceeds to British miners.)
- ☐ Wobbly T-Shirts, \$10 postpaid from Denver-Boulder IWW Branch, P.O.Box 478, Johnstown, CO, 80534.

Subscribe to the INDUSTRIAL WORKER

Name _____
Street _____
City _____
State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Enclosed is:

- ☐ \$2 for a 6-MONTH introductory subscription
- ☐ \$6 for a ONE YEAR regular subscription
- ☐ \$11 for a TWO YEAR regular subscription
- ☐ \$16 for a THREE YEAR regular subscription (all foreign subscribers add \$4)
- ☐ \$18 for a 5-copy bundle each month
- ☐ \$33 for a 10-copy bundle each month
- ☐ \$__ as a donation to the IW Sustaining Fund

PLEASE SEND ALL ORDERS TO:

I. W. W.
3435 North Sheffield, Suite 202
Chicago, Illinois, 60657

• Why You Should Know About The IWW •

Probably no labor union has been so misunderstood as the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). We believe that is vital for all unorganized workers, and the growing number of workers who are disenchanted with the business-like character and wholesale indifference of their own trade unions, to know the truth about the history and current activities of IWW, and its increasing relevance to the struggles of working people across the world.

Our members are always reading that the IWW died in 1917, that it never had more than 10,000 members, that it only caused violence and left as soon as it had come. We intend to show that this was not the case by taking each of these myths separately and comparing them with the facts.

• Sabotage And Violence •

Was the IWW really as destructive as they say? A 1939 Johns Hopkins University study concluded that "Although there are contradictory opinions as to whether the IWW practices sabotage or not, it is interesting to note that no case of an IWW saboteur caught practicing sabotage or convicted of its practice is available." In the more informal words of a North Dakota employer, "The IWWs I know are swell fellows, but them alleged IWWs I read about in the paper are holy terrors."

One problem was that not everyone who claimed to be a "Wobbly" was actually in the union. Many people and groups took advantage of its popularity to proclaim their own beliefs. In addition, the police, army or hired thugs often attacked striking Wobs (and other union members), then pointed out the IWW's violence when strikers attempted to fight back. To quote a resolution adopted at the IWW Convention of 1913, "It is the employing class who provoke violence and then cry out the loudest against it. . . the program of the IWW offers the only possible solution to the wage question whereby violence can be avoided or, at the very worst, reduced to a minimum."

• Subversive Activities •

Wobblies believe that workers should directly own and control the place where they work. The IWW also places a heavy emphasis on democracy, in the workplace and the union itself (the IWW is the most democratic union in existence). This belief in democratic rank-and-file control over the means of production precludes any attempts to support any of the many alleged "marxist" or "communist" ideologies or governments.

Because the IWW believes that national differences keep workers from uniting against those who own and control, its ideal world has no nations. Wobblies do not endorse the Marxist/Communist belief that workers must be welded into a class by an intellectual elite, nor do they preach revolution as a solution; instead, the IWW supports rank-and-file unionism as an end in itself, to improve the conditions of workers through organization. The IWW's final goal is the uniting of all workers across the world into One Big Union, and the ending of the current capitalist, socialist and "communist" systems, along with the so-called democracies, oligarchies and dictatorships they operate in. The IWW gained its reputation for subversive activities mostly by refusing to remain silent, fighting through civil disobedience for freedom of speech and the right to congregate and associate peacefully.

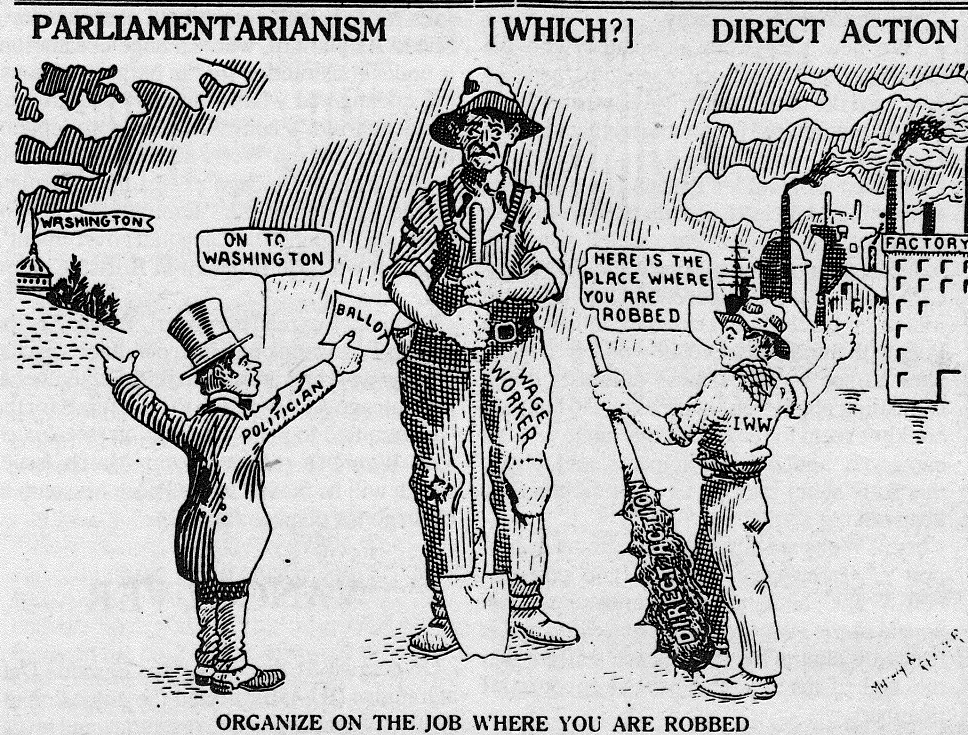
• Interfering With Production •

The IWW believes that workers should govern their own affairs--and psychologists point out that when they do, productivity goes up. While working within the present society the IWW attempts to gain as much control over the workplace as possible, but management often gives up massive gains in productivity in order to have a little more control (this is best shown in Robert Howard's *Brave New Workplace*).

What Every Worker Should Know About the IWW

Adapted from
What Every Labor Professor Should know About the IWW.
by Dave Zatz

CATE—ORGANIZE—FIGHT FOR THE EIGHT



ORGANIZE ON THE JOB WHERE YOU ARE ROBBED

Industrial Worker, 1911



Wobblies hold an antifascism rally during the Spanish Civil War.



Tacoma-Olympia IWW members, 1988.

Loss of production blamed on unionism is usually caused by management's refusal either to deal with the workers fairly, provide an appropriate salary and reasonable working conditions, or to give even the slightest amount of on-the-job control to the workers.

• Antiwar Efforts •

In the Bisbee Deportation, 1164 Wobblies (three were killed) were forced into cattle cars, left standing up in the cars for over 36 hours, and then locked up in a detention camp at Columbus, New Mexico. They were guilty of striking peacefully to gain better wages at the copper mines during World War I, at a time when the company, Phelps-Dodge, was charging the government three times the production cost for copper (surely, there was room for a little less profit). The copper companies, as it happened, had created a false shortage of copper in order to keep the price high--by storing 3 billion pounds of it when it was needed most for the war effort (*Senate Document #259, 65th Congress*). In general, strikes during the war were not strictly against the government itself, but against those who were milking it.

Vincent St. John, one of the most outstanding IWW organizers, put it this way: "The wage workers of the world are the only class that is really concerned in abolishing war. It is they who furnish the victims and reap no benefit whatever for their class. All wars, past and present, are in the interest of the employing class of some particular political division. . ."

True to this general premise, IWW activists have taken part in virtually every antiwar struggle since this union was founded in 1905. Not only have Wobblies played an active role in antiwar activities, but they are often credited as being the foremost strategists in the nonviolent movement, from the anti-conscription mobilization of World War I through the direct action anti-nuke tactics of the 1980s.

• The Modern IWW •

While the IWW was a colorful union, with its famous Free Speech fights and its Little Red Songbook, its "color" came from practical needs. Without free speech and the right to hold meetings, organizing was nearly impossible. When early IWW organizers held outdoor meetings, Salvation Army bands would often try to drown them out; organizers made up parodies to be sung to their music, creating the "singing IWW." Strategic tactical innovations and flexibility have always been characteristic of Wobbly struggles, and never have these qualities been more relevant--or more necessary--than they are today. As one Wobbly recently wrote: ". . . the free society will remain a dream until the great mass of humanity, the working class of the world, wrests control from the planet-destroying capitalist class and starts to make the dream come true."

"To expand the consciousness of working men and women; to draw them out of their passivity and fear; to multiply their self-confidence and autonomy; to unbend their backs and open their eyes; to help them break the chains that bind them to a death-oriented civilization; to promote their self-activity and solidarity; and to inspire them with the possibilities of a new life: *That* is what the IWW is all about. . ."

To the bitter dismay of bosses, militarists, skeptics, pie-cards and rumor-mongers the world over, the IWW is more alive and militant in its demands than in several decades, with membership branches, groups and job shops throughout the United States, Canada, Australia, Great Britain and all points in between, encompassing workers in every field from professional child care to printing, and from music-making to mining.

Interested? Let us hear from you! Write to us today. . .don't wait!

IWW

3435 N. Sheffield #202
Chicago, IL 60657
(312) 549-5045